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NEWS BRIEFS

Postal Service pays salutes African-American culture with Kwanzaa Stamp

NEWARK—Three hundred children from local schools participated in the unveiling of a larger-than-life sized replica of the Kwanzaa stamp at the Newark Public Library last week.

The Kwanzaa stamp is the latest in the U.S. Postal Service's Holiday Celebration Series. Ceremony speakers included U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg and Newark Mayor Sharpe James. Lautenberg said he appreciated the willingness of the Postal Service to have an East Coast unveiling of its new Kwanzaa stamp in Newark. "I suggested this ceremony because Newark is rich with—and enriched by—African-American Culture," he said.

NIEASE system starts in Somerset County

TRENTON—Governor Christie Whitman announced that Somerset County is now a part of the New Jersey Easy Access, Single Entry (NIEASE) project for senior citizens.

A one-stop information service, the program is a state initiative developed in partnership with a number of county governments. "NIEASE will promote wellness, independence, dignity and choice for older adults and help put an end to the confusion often experienced by those seeking senior services," the governor said.

State tax on cigarettes doubles in the New Year

TRENTON—To pay for the cost of Charley Care, school repairs, and a health insurance program for 100,000 New Jersey residents, the New Jersey Legislature and Governor Whitman agreed to double the state tax on cigarettes.

The increases will take effect next year. Pipe and cigar smokers, and those who chew tobacco will also be affected. Explaining that no one likes a new tax, Senator Richard Cody said, "We need to give some stability to our urban hospitals, to ensure that the lion's share of treatment to those who cannot afford health insurance."

Bergen County receives funding for juvenile programs

HACKENSACK—Bergen County will receive a funding grant of \$655,716 from the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

The grant will be used to fund 14 programs under the State/Community Partnership Program for juveniles adjudicated or charged as delinquents and for prevention of juvenile delinquency. This includes programs for substance abuse, anger management, diversion alternatives, and mental health.

Winnie Mandela lacks support to capture ANC #2 post

MANIKENG, South Africa—Reversing her move towards gaining the deputy-presidency of the African National Party, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, withdrew her nomination due to lack of support.

The move gave the new ANC president Thabo Mbeki, the leadership team he is seeking to guide the party through in 1999 election. Shut out of the pre-conference nomination process, Madikizela-Mandela tried to engineer a nomination from the convention floor. When she received the support of only a few dozen of the 3,064 delegates, she rejected the nomination.

Bringing good into the world: the practice and promise of Kwanzaa

The Founder's Annual Kwanzaa Message

Dr. Maulana Karenga

The essential and enduring value of Kwanzaa rests unavoidably in its principles and the practice of bringing and enjoying good in the world which these principles inspire and sustain.

Kwanzaa's stress on the harmonious in gathering of the people; special reverence for the Creator and the creator; reflective

commemoration of the past; ongoing recognition to our highest cultural ideals; and joyous celebration of the good all speak to Kwanzaa's concept with the cooperative creation of good and its, collective sharing. Indeed, this year's Kwanzaa theme is "bringing good into the world." This theme is taken from the ancient African moral teaching that the fundamental meaning and mission of human life is to constantly bring good into the world and that this good is always a shared good, a good which enriches those who give it as well as those who receive it.

The particular wording of bringing good into the world is taken from the sacred text of the Yoruba people, the *Odu of Ifa*. The *Odu*, titled "Iron-

work," says, "Let us do things with joy... For surely humans have been chosen to bring good into the world." This concept of chosen to bring beautiful and inspiring, not only because it is a selection by the Creator and thus carries with it a sacred significance, but especially because it is inclusive of all humans and thus reaffirms the unique and special dignity and value of each and all of us as human beings. In fact, the word for human beings in the Yoruba language is *eniyen* which literally means the chosen ones. This ancient African moral teaching is also valuable in its assigning each of us a clearly active and unmistakably positive mission of bringing good into the world from which we derive our fundamental meaning as persons and fun-

extension our fundamental mission and meaning as a people.

And to we are all chosen, each and everyone of us, divinely selected to bring good into the world. But as Kwanzaa, the philosophy out of which Kwanzaa is created and developed, teaches, we are not only chosen by heaven but also by history. The model periods of our history—the classical civilizations, of the Nile Valley, the Holocaust of Enslavement and the Reaffirmation of our Africanness and social justice tradition in struggle in the 60's—all bear witness to this. Heaven, then, has chosen us as human beings to bring good into the world, but history has chosen us as a people to do likewise. Ours, then, is both a moral and spiritual vocation and an

historical one.

May we be blessed with the strength, will and wisdom to do these things to that we honor the central mission and meaning of human life—to create, nurture and harvest the good. And may we be doing this, in the words of the ancestors, "be granted all things good and pure, which heaven gives, the earth yields and the waters bring forth from their well-springs."

Dr. Maulana Karenga is the creator of the holiday of Kwanzaa; Professor and Chair of the Department of Black Studies, California State University at Long Beach; Chairman of the Organization for the Study of African American Life and the National Association of Kwanzaa Organizations; and author of *Defining Issues on Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture, Commemorative Edition*.

'Men of Valor' receive praise



Area ministers were alerted for three community activism at the recent 'Men of Valor' award breakfast. These ministers include, back row from left, Pastor Lawrence Powell, Project Re-Entry Director Sharon Berry, and Bishop James Everett, Jr. In front row from left are Rev. David Jefferson, Bishop LaToya Holmes, Reverend Ronald Durham, Rev. Calvin McKinney, Dr. William Waller, Reverend Reginald T. Jackson and Bishop William T. Cahoon.

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Rice leads legislators in protest of car insurance

TRENTON—Senator Ronald L. Rice today joined fellow legislators, Mayor Mims Hackett of Orange, Mayor-elect Robert Bowers of East Orange and others to protest anti-urban, auto-insurance laws that force urban drivers to pay 35 percent more than others.

"The citizens of Newark, East Orange and Orange do not deserve to have to pay the outrageous, discriminatory auto-insurance rates they now pay," Senator Rice, D-Essex, said Tuesday during a news conference at Newark City Hall. "New Jersey has the highest automobile insurance rates in the nation, then urban Essex County residents must pay the highest rates on the planet."

Senator Rice, who also serves as Newark city councilman, said further that the Whitman Administration and some Republicans had backed a bill last year that would force insurers charge residents of East Orange, Newark and Orange 50 percent higher auto-insurance rates instead of the 35-percent surcharge they now have.

Senator Lipman, whose 29th legislative district also includes part of Newark's urban residents, said in particular minorities have borne the brunt of insurance companies' profit-driven mindset far too long and deserve rate relief.

"Insurance companies saw staggering profits last year from selling auto insurance, due in no small part to the excessive rates they charge urban

drivers," Senator Lipton said. "Drivers in Newark, East Orange and Orange don't deserve to get punished simply because insurance companies can get away with charging us higher rates."

"It's unfair and unfortunate that we're charged up to 35 percent more to insure our cars in Orange, East Orange and Newark," Orange Mayor Mims Hackett said. "Our neighborhoods would have to pay the same amount as every one else. This shows it will."

Senator Rice said the Republican-led Legislature is missing a golden opportunity recently to include a minority representative of Essex County who could address the excessive and unfair rates that Newark, East Orange and Orange drivers must pay.

"We view these anti-urban, auto-insurance regulations as use-restrictive and discriminatory," Senator Rice said. "Senate Republicans could have led the charge to end this blatant anti-urban and anti-minority railing system, but they would not include a minority from Essex County."

"One way or another, we're here today to say we do will everything in our power to end this anti-urban, anti-minority auto-insurance bias," Senator Rice said. "We're putting insurance companies on notice that they have gotten all the easy money off of us that they'll get."

East Orange mayoral transition team named, Inaugural ball planned

EAST ORANGE—Mayor-Elect Robert L. Bowser, announced that he has selected a transition team to officially begin the process of a smooth transition with the administration of outgoing Mayor Cardell Cooper in East Orange on January 1. The day after he takes office, Bowser and his family will celebrate with his supporters at his inaugural ball to take place at Moyfar Farms in West Orange.

"I have organized a transition team which possesses a wide-ranging knowledge of municipal government, operations, and delivery of services. These individuals have the expertise essential to allow my administration to hit the ground running" when I take the oath of office on January 1, Mayor-Elect Bob Bowser stated.

The Bowser Transition Team is

comprised of a group of 17 individuals, who bring a high degree of managerial skill and a working knowledge of municipal government. Heading the Transition Team is Chairman Joseph W. Jenkins, an independent Human Resources Consultant and the former Business Administrator for the City.

"As we move forward on an agenda to rebuild East Orange, we will need the cooperation of Mayor Cooper and his entire administration to assure the success of the transition," Mayor-Elect Bowser continued.

In Bowser's letter to Cooper dated November 20, 1997, the Mayor-elect wrote, "Thank you for your good wishes and pledge of cooperation. I look forward to working with your staff over the next several weeks to

effect a smooth and efficient transition of administration of our City."

Bowser's transition team, headed by Cooper, seeks to secure substantive and very specific information concerning issues which directly impact upon running the administration and also addresses the entire operational structure of the city government.

The inaugural ball, a black-tie event, is open to the general public and tickets are selling for \$150 per person or \$1,500 a table. Catherine Willis, general chair for the Mayor's Inaugural Ball Committee, urged all residents to come out and enjoy themselves as the new mayor celebrates the birth of East Orange.

People who wish to purchase tickets for the events may call Willis at 973-674-9198.

Goodyear apologizes for racialist, offensive ad

BALTIMORE—In a letter to NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company President Samir Gibara apologized for a racially-insensitive Goodyear television ad that was airing in Latin America.

In the ad, an actor makes fun of a black man's lips and compares them to toes. The ad was immediately canceled, according to Gibara, when the company's top official returned from travel and saw the ad for the first time. "I would like to extend my personal apologies to you and the African American community for this improper situation," Gibara wrote in a letter to Kweisi Mfume.

In his letter, he noted several actions that Goodyear has taken to insure a similar situation does not happen again. "You have our assurance that we have a zero tolerance position for any incidents that tarnish our reputation for diversity," Gibara wrote.

Mfume, who had criticized the company for the advertisement that ran in Peru, said he was gratified that Gibara took the issue seriously, apologized and took steps to avoid a similar incident happening in the future.

"We appreciate the apology from

Goodyear and we'll wait to see if it is followed by positive actions. We hope that other corporations are paying attention and don't make the same set of racially insensitive mistakes," Mfume said.

NAACP seeks information about Ron Brown

BALTIMORE—NAACP President Kweisi Mfume raised concerns about a wound at the top of Congress about statements made by military doctors that Commerce Secretary Ron Brown may have been shot.

Secretary Brown was one of 15 people who were killed when an Air Force plane crashed into a mountain in Croatia in April of 1996. Air Force pathologist Lt. Col. Steve Cogswell and Army Lt. Col. David House have both made statements about a wound at the top of Brown's head saying it could have been caused by a gunshot. Lt. Col. Cogswell said an autopsy should have been performed first and that the cause of the wound and has criticized the military for prematurely diagnosing

the possibility.

"The NAACP's very concerned about the ramifications of these allegations and left unanswered and unresolved, they raise serious questions," Mfume wrote in a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno. Mfume asked Reno if the Justice Department is investigating the matter. "These allegations require an explanation," Mfume also wrote to President Clinton to express the NAACP's interest in the matter. He asked General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for a briefing on a Pentagon investigation of the allegations. "It is clear to me that this investigation must not be allowed to fester," Mfume said.

'This is the Black family'



Keynote speaker Dick Gregory, at left, shares a moment with other festive well-wishers. With him are, seated, Hafiz Farid, and standing from left, recording artist De La and B-CAP publicist Michelle Bey.

By g. matts

Newark will go down in history as being one of the first cities to celebrate Kwanzaa, and a recent celebration in honor of the holiday shows that this city can do it better than anybody.

Almost 200 people attended the Fifth Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration sponsored by Black Ops against Police Brutality (B-CAP). It was more than everything a good party should be, in addition to comfortable fellowship, delicious food, and enlightening and inspiring entertainment, there was the opportunity to address the rising epidemic of police brutality in the African American community.

The celebration featured an African Children's village where the younger partygoers has special entertainment, and dozens of vendors with many Kwanzaa gift-giving ideas. A wide-ranging festival program included presentations from Fredericka Bey of Women's Support of the Million Man March; poetry from A Touch of Reality, RCA recording artist De La, and Emma Jones, a New Haven, Conn. community activist whose son was shot at

point blank range, for giving a police officer "an angry look."

Money raised by this annual celebration is used by B-CAP to finance programs that foster better relations between police and the community. One young woman who won over \$160 in a 50-50 raffle donated her prize to the organization.

Vinnie Brown, of the rap group Naughty By Nature, is a strong supporter of B-CAP and comes from the East Orange neighborhood where organization founder DeLa Davis once walked a beat. Brown is a recent visitor to Kwanzaa celebration, and described a recent incident in Harlem where he and other members of the group were pulled over and harassed by the police.

The keynote speaker, comedian/activist/nutritionist/Dick Gregory attacked the celebration for the second year in a row, "I just invited myself back."

"This is the Black family," he said. "What is happening here happens no place else in America. If someone were to tell me, I would never believe that to this time I feel the way I do when I come here is when I go to Africa."

NAACP BRIEFS

NEW WATCHDOG COMMITTEE WILL MONITOR BLACK COACHES HIRING

A new national watchdog committee has been formed to monitor whether or not Black coaches are fairly treated. Sports Perspectives International (SPI), which is based in Washington, D.C., is working with the Black Coaches Association (BCA) on selecting members. The committee's first chairman is Charles S. Farrell, president of SPI.

According to Farrell, the deal of Black hiring at the end of last year's football season demonstrates the need for such a committee. "It is unacceptable for that to take place again this year," Farrell said. "The majority of the players in big-time college football are Black, as the players in the NFL. We simply must have some equity in the coaching ranks." In addition to the BCA, the association has invited the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the NAACP and other civil rights organizations to serve on the committee. "We want those who are in the hiring and firing to know that they cannot operate in a vacuum," Farrell said. "We want them to know that there are possible repercussions in cases where we feel discrimination took place." For information contact Farrell at 202-682-9265.

EU OFFERS TO HELP REINTEGRATE FORMER GUERRILLAS INTO SOCIETY

LUSAKA, Zambia (PANA) — The European Union has allocated a sum of \$180 million U.S. to help Southern African countries reintegrate into society former guerrillas who fought wars to end colonialism and racism. The offer was made during a joint committee meeting in Lusaka of senior officials of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and their EU counterparts.

The community's executive secretary, Kaire Mubende, said that as a first step, SADC would undertake a needs assessment survey on the requirements of individual states subscribing to the program.

So far, at least 100,000 former combatants in Mozambique have been reintegrated into society and another 110,000 in Angola. These efforts, Mubende said, were meant to improve the security situation in the sub region. "If left unresolved the problem of former combatants could cause security risks of drug trafficking and other criminal activities in the region," he said.

Southern Africa has one of the largest concentrations of demobilized soldiers who fought in wars of liberation in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

— Muswanga Kayaya

MANDELA WARNS BOTHA AGAINST DEFYING TRUTH COMMISSION

JOHANNESBURG, (PANA) — Nelson Mandela says he has had enough of former state president P.W. Botha's refusal to co-operate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about state-sponsored human rights abuses under his rule.

Mandela said Botha, 81, who ruled apartheid South Africa from 1978 to 1989 and who is now linked to many apartheid atrocities, was not above the law and could face jail or a fine if he continues to refuse substance to the commission. Botha has been ordered on three occasions to appear before the commission's hearings, the latest being in Cape Town on Nov. 19.

So far, the apartheid president has flouted each summons, claiming he has nothing to hide and that he is not prepared to testify in front of a "circus." Mandela, 79, said he regretted Botha's defiance against the Commission, whose chairman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has demanded that Botha apologize. "If all persuasion fails, the law must take its course," Mandela said. "This subpoena has been issued and it must be obeyed. Botha, who has repeatedly suffered from cancer over the past year, gave illness as the reason for not responding to the subpoena."

— Newton Kanihema

Congressional Black Caucus Demands action on charges of discrimination in Federal Law Enforcement

WASHINGTON—Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) recently released letters to the heads of federal law enforcement agencies urging them to take immediate action on the chilling testimony given at the CBC hearing on "Employment Discrimination in Federal Law Enforcement."

The letters were sent a month after the CBC hearing held on November 5, 1997.

Employees and former employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States Marshals Service (USMS), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) shared accounts of ongoing racism and

discrimination at their agencies with Members of the CBC.

In agency after agency, we continue to see a pattern and practice of some of the most egregious and blatant cases of racism and discrimination that I have encountered in my 20 years of service as a lawmaker," said Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chair of the CBC.

"The heads of each of these agencies—Louis Freeh, Eduardo Gonzalez and Thomas Constantine must take responsibility for the actions of those subordinates who repeatedly trample on the civil rights of others," added Rep. Waters. "We cannot have individuals vested with the authority to uphold the law actually breaking the law."

Black Mayors challenge Clinton on African foreign policy

ATLANTA—The National Council on Black Mayors (NCBM), representing 442 African-American mayors and a constituency of more than twenty million people across the United States, issued an aggressive and significant challenge to President Bill Clinton and the 105th Session of Congress.

The NCBM's Committee on Africa, Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, Missouri, and Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver, Colorado, who chairs NCBM's Committee on Africa, are asking President Clinton and members of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives to place African nations and the issues that plague the people of these countries at the top of the foreign policy agenda when Congress reconvenes in January. "We are President Clinton, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Commerce to take a more visible role in the stimulation of trade with African nations," says Mayor Webb.

Since 1995, a total of 52 percent

of all FDI has gone to East Asia; 29 percent to Latin America; 14 percent to Eastern Europe; and only four percent to Sub-Saharan Africa. This trend must be reversed," says Mayor Webb.

The National Conference of Black Mayors supports the recommendations of the G-8 Summit—a meeting of industrialized nations recently hosted by Mayor Wellington Webb in Denver, Colorado. At the G-8 Summit, which was attended by President Clinton and leaders from seven other countries, Mayor Webb stated, "Africa's new leaders have ushered their countries into various forms of political and economic reforms. To sustain growth beyond the twenty-first century, they must create an enabling climate to boost domestic and foreign investment. We must change the negative attitudes about Africa which interfere with the establishment of economic initiatives. It is our duty, it is our responsibility; it is our necessity of role in world leadership to do this and to do it now."

Tawana to World: 'I was raped...I do not lie'

By Charles Baillo
Special to the NNPA From the New York Amsterdam News

As her former defenders, the Rev. Al Sharpton and attorney Alton Maddox, Jr. face a multi-million dollar defamation lawsuit, Tawana Brown, 16, flanked by the now suspended Maddox and her stepfather, Ralph King, recently stood in the pulpit of Bethany Baptist Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. "Thank you for believing me," she told a group of over 500 gathered there. Nine years ago, the young woman, stayed in the same church for 40 days with her mother, Glenda Brawley. She was offered refuge there by its pastor, the Rev. Wilfred Jones, to avoid being served a contempt citation.

It is most fitting that Tawana Brown's return should occur in this church," Maddox told ebullient supporters. "Many of us see this as a homecoming." When Maddox introduced Brawley, who has not set foot in the sanctuary since early 1989, the audience gave her a standing ovation and chanted, "We believe Tawana!"

"I believe in what you believe in," I believe in Alton Maddox," said Brawley, who embraced Maddox tightly for over a minute before she stepped to the front of the church.

Asserting that her mother, Glenda is a strong woman who maintains a close-knit family, Brawley said her parents

had lost their jobs and homes because she charged that several White men had abducted and raped her for several days in Wappingers Falls, NY, in late November 1987. Obviously still bothered by the mainstream media's acceptance of Attorney General Robert Abrams' report that a grand jury found her charge a hoax, Brawley said: "I had read what I have seen written about me for the past 10 years. I would say it was a hoax too." Maddox believes Brawley because of his personal experiences in southern Georgia. With its horrible history of lynching and terrorizing Black people as late as the 1950s, Maddox said he remembers Black men being ordered out of their homes, leaving their wives behind. White men would simply say: "Boy, get out of here. I've some business to take care of," he said. Of Brawley, Maddox said, "We still love her. We still believe in her—because the story of Tawana Brawley is the story of Black women in America." According to Maddox, the case in New York's Dutchess County in which Steven Pagnone, a former county assistant district attorney charged with defamation of character, "is about whether White America is the will to place White men in jail for raping Black women."

Brawley claimed that Pagnone and several of his alleged accomplices raped her. A confident Maddox predicts that the defamation suit will fail. "To demonstrate how weak Pagnone's case is, he's calling me as one of his witnesses," he said.

Ashford and Nehemiah reach Hall of Fame

INDIANAPOLIS—Evelyn Ashford and Renaldo Nehemiah have been elected to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. Ashford, one of the finest sprinters in world history, and Nehemiah, an all-time great hurdler, were both on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time.

Ashford, 40, of Walnut, Calif., is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and the former world record holder at 100 meters. She competed in the 1976, 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympics, winning the 100m and anchoring the 4x100m relay team at the Los Angeles Games in '84. Ashford's two gold medals came in the sprint relays in the 1988 and 1992 Games. She broke the world record for

the 100m with a time of 10.79 in 1983. A year later Ashford broke her own mark with a 10.76 performance.

Nehemiah, who left track for several years to play professional football, was the first man under 15 seconds in the 110 meter hurdles. Now 38 years old, Nehemiah, 6'2", of New York City, Gaithersburg, Md., was born in Newark, N.J. After winning titles at the Pan American Games and World Cup and lowering the world record to 12.98 in 1981, he joined the NFL San Francisco 49ers. Nehemiah was out of track from 1982 to 1985. He returned to hurdling in 1986, retiring for good after the 1992 season.

Farrakhan, Arafat discuss plight of Palestinians

By Asika Muhammad

AMMAN, Jordan—Until all those who live in the West Bank and Gaza can pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque, how could I rejoice, even going to pray, knowing that those whose land it is become strangers in their own land? Minister Louis Farrakhan asked reporters here Dec. 15 after his return from Palestinian controlled territory in Israel, without realizing his hope was to pray at the Islamic holy site in Jerusalem.

Following the surprise arrival into Israeli controlled territory by the Nation of Islam leader with help from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat who hosted the trip, stunned authorities of the Jewish state, caught off guard by the earlier-than-announced visit, said that because Minister Farrakhan holds an American passport he was free to tour Israel "without hindrance," according to a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

Other officials of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, were openly hostile and belligerent. Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh called for the Muslim leader and his delegation of 24 to be expelled "at once," adding that this should be done "in a legal way."

In the face of threatened provocation by the head of "Jerusalem Is Ours," an ultra-nationalist Jewish group, a spokesman for Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert refused to guarantee the safety of the Muslim group. "It's a free city," Haggaal Elias said in a published report. "Anybody can go wherever he likes. But if someone is instigating a provocation, then it's for

the police to decide what to do."

Palestinian Authority advisers, including Christian Arabs who administer the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, advised Minister Farrakhan that they were concerned for the group's safety because they have no security authority in Israeli controlled areas. The Muslim leader considered leaving the territory immediately after meeting President Arafat, a delegation official said. The Final Cut. The next morning the Minister's desire to go to Jerusalem was "kindled again," but that decision was finally overridden. "My mission was mission of peace," the Muslim leader said of his decision to leave without entering Jerusalem, in an TV interview. "And after seeing all the misery stories on TV and radio, I felt that if my presence would incite the passion of the hatred of the Israeli people for me, it would be better that I leave than my presence incite an incident with possible international repercussions." In the emotional first meeting between the two men, President Arafat expressed his appreciation to Minister Farrakhan for his long-standing support for the Palestinian cause.

In addition, he completed dozens of incidents of "Israeli violations and non-compliance with (peace) Agreements (already) signed," by the Israeli government, releasing a document from his Negotiations Affairs Department, detailing the violations. Muslims can help solve the problems of Palestine and help secure the peace process, Minister Farrakhan said. "The whole Muslim world, if it were united, it could go a long way toward ending the suffering of the Palestinian people."

Drug companies cool to anti-AIDS vaccine Production

By Peter Maseub
PANA Correspondent

ABIDJAN, Cote d'Ivoire—Lack of interest by major pharmaceutical companies is one reason why there has been no success in producing an anti-AIDS vaccine, a ranking United Nations AIDS specialist said recently.

The official, Peter Piot, is the executive director of the U.N. United Nations joint program on HIV/AIDS.

He said in Abidjan, where he was attending the 10th International conference on HIV/AIDS, that companies were investing heavily in producing AIDS drugs rather than in vaccines. Yet, he said, only vaccines were capable of turn-

ing AIDS from a killer to an ailment.

"I think the issue is economic. The pharmaceutical companies believe they will be forced to sell the vaccines at very low prices because their procurement is usually done by governments," he said. "Yet we urgently need a vaccine, even if it initially cannot work 100 percent."

Piot said that it was an erroneous assumption that companies were disinterested in producing a vaccine simply because AIDS was viewed as becoming "a disease of the poor" in developing countries.

"AIDS affects everybody, the rich and poor, hence the need for a global alliance, including the drug companies, ordinary people, religious and opinion leaders,"

Services held for Ken Thomas

Publisher, LA Sentinel
1930-1997



Funeral services for Kenneth R. Thomas, Esq., publisher and chief executive officer of The Los Angeles Sentinel, were held on Friday, Dec. 5 at the historic First AME Church, in Los Angeles. He died on November 28.

The son of the late

Augusta W. Dickinson and James Edward Thomas, Kenneth Thomas was born on Jan. 1, 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio.

After his military duty, he returned to Ohio and earned his L.L.B. and J.D. degrees from Ohio State University. College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. He was a member of Beta Sigma (undergraduate) and Phi Alpha Delta (law).

Thomas was in private practice from 1960 until he died. He was a Probate referee from 1974 to the present.

He became the chief executive officer of The Los Angeles Sentinel in 1983, and immediately set in motion to move the newspaper to a higher potential. The manual typewriters were quickly replaced by computers. General production of the publication was upgraded to meet deadlines.

At the time of his death, he had other plans of moving The Sentinel another notch, so to could compete with the dailies and other weekly newspapers throughout the nation.

Thomas was also at the top of his field in probate law. He was the attorney selected to administer the estate of J. Paul Getty, and represented Phillip Brooks, the only African American accused of killing a white person during the Watts riot.

He was a member of the State Bar of Ohio, State Bar of California, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Langston Law Club, Los Angeles Trial Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, American Arbitration Association, and American Bar Association.

Thomas was also the legal advisor of the Los Angeles Fair Housing Council, a member of the NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, Congress of Racial Equality, Who's Who in California, board member California Rapid Transit District, California Democratic Council, National Newspaper Publishers Association, National Publishers Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association, the Los Angeles Urban League, and more.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jennifer Thomas, The Sentinel Staff and other relatives and friends.



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Season's greetings to you

On page six, several of the City News staff members have made an opinion statement regarding what the individual principles of Kwanzaa represent to them.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during 1997. We want to print what you want to read, your comments, suggestions and criticisms are important towards the development of this "New Journal of Civilization."

Whether you trim your tree, light a menorah, drink from the unity cup or manage to do it all, the City News Publishing Company wishes you the happiest of holidays, and success and prosperity in 1998.

—Dr. Henry C. Johnson,
President and Publisher,
City News Publishing Company

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter as a taxpayer in the Township of Irvington, because I am concerned about many disturbing events taking place in our city, on the eve of Black History Month.

Many of the most serious ones, are the attacks on Mr. Fred Bost, "the Mayor's husband", by Councilman Bilal Beasley who is running for Mayor and Councilman Wayne Smith, who has his own personal problems.

Kerry (I don't get into politics at 69 years old), but since Mr. Beasley and Wayne Smith are preoccupied causing problems elsewhere, by voting on legislation to raise taxes, I am bringing this issue to the citizens of Irvington. While Mr. Beasley has a right to run for Mayor and Mr. Wayne Smith has a right to support him for some unknown reason.

These two gentlemen don't have a right to attack the integrity of Mr. Fred Bost, who has an unblemished record of volunteering his service to the citizens of Irvington. I don't understand why Mr. Beasley and Wayne Smith think its against the law for Mayor Bost to appoint Fred to a non-paying job.

Let me say that Mr. Fred Bost served as a councilman for four years, on the Board of Adjustment for four years, and was his chairman for two of those years. He remains an active black association President and District Leader with the interests of all citizens at heart. Let me say, "If this is the way Mr. Beasley is going to act in the public forum, I think he should give up running for Mayor."

I don't think Councilmen Bilal Beasley and Wayne Smith should be practicing racial politics in Irvington.

NOW! Let's set the record straight.

In 1990 when Wayne Smith was top aid to then Mayor Michael Steele, he didn't criticize the Mayor for making the same appointment and more.

1. In 1990 Mayor Steele appointed his father to the Planning Board.

2. 1990 Mayor Steele appoints his brother to a \$41,825 post.

3. 1990 Mayor Steele appoints his stepson to a \$20,000 position.

4. 1990 his uncle to a \$28,393 position.

The list of friends he favored for jobs are too long to write.

I think, in fact Fred Bost is the best and least qualified choice for the non-paying Planning Board position. From now on Mr. Beasley should stick to the issues, and Councilman David Jones should go back to school to learn that the past is a reflection of the future.

Edward Moore

One Black woman's thoughts about Tawana Brawley affair

By Lenora Fulani

After the Tawana Brawley case first broke in 1987, I was one of her firmest supporters. As a Black woman and the mother of a teenage daughter myself, my heart went out to Tawana, particularly as the case turned into such a routing and ugly spectacle. I organized a march of 300 women of color through the streets of Poughkeepsie to support her. Throughout the process, I not only stood by Tawana, but by her advisors and attorneys as well—responding publicly to their adversaries and raising money to help them continue their work—including \$10,000 for Attorney Maddox when he was initially threatened with disbarment.

Now that the case is being revisited in the context of the defamation suit brought by Steven Pagones against Rev. Al Sharpton, Afon Moore and C. Vernon Mason, I feel both compelled and qualified to comment.

I am outraged that this revisitation of the Tawana Brawley case becomes the occasion to invite Maddox and Sharpton as any kind of defenders of Black womanhood. Whatever motivated them to involve themselves in the Brawley case it was, in my opinion not a commitment to protecting Black women. Both Maddox and Sharpton had no trouble publicly "raping" me when it served their own political purposes.

Seven years after the Brawley affair, and just as Rev. Sharpton was making his political "peace" with the system, he had again been viciously attacked him, I became the target of Sharpton and Maddox's wrath for exposing that political deal.

In 1994 and 1995, while running in the Democratic primary against sitting Governor Mario Cuomo, Sharpton, who was also a candidate that year, had agreed to a cross endorsement plan with me. But as time passed and his endorsement was

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By Carolyn L. Bennett

This season perhaps more than any other season calls us to love. For under the stars of Christmas, the midnight that brings peace and goodwill to all.

And what goodwill and peace and love politicians and public servants of this city brought to the nation and the world in the days before Christmas?

More than you would think.

The first Lady led a town meeting on race with 10,000 students in New England last week. An Associated Press photo showed a first lady in rapt attention as an African American boy told of his hurt by a classroom's racial slur against him on a school bus. The First Lady even shared a memory of bigotry aimed at her in her school days. She also explained her conviction on race, particularly in black and white, are important even while acknowledging that all people experience some form of bigotry and prejudice.

The black-white issue has to be the focus of the conversation," she was quoted as saying, "because it is the unfinished business of America."

The first lady showed courage in stating a truth. So did Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last week in Rwanda. She told the world that Western countries, including the United States, failed to stop the 1994 massacres in that country and they need to do more to help African nations. The secretary's East Central Africa visits bore well for respectful relations between Africa and the U.S. for commerce, among nations and for the individual stature of all nations, including the United States.

Only one African leader, President Farkham, an unlikely ally, was Louis out on some tough love last week. On his visit to Iraq, the minister castigat-

Only in Washington does the base of the Democratic Party Blacks, Hispanics, labor, women's groups—have less influence than the organizations that purport to speak for the "swing voters"

Reprinted from the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition newsletter

WASHINGTON, D.C. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt let the cat out of the bag last week, when he picked a fight with the "Democrats for the Love of Glass" in the House. He was thoughtful, well-written, and finely speckled at Harvard's Kennedy School.

This is no ordinary political squabble—this is a confrontation between the first chairman of the DNC, a corporate-funded, media-oriented, Beltway organization founded in the mid-1960s with the specific purpose of moving the Democratic Party away from its base, away from unions, Blacks and Browns, and women's rights.

Whether the DNC roots, Dick Gephardt stripped the bark off Al Farkham's hide, with these pointed remarks:

"And now more than ever, pragma-

Only in Washington does the base of the Democratic Party Blacks, Hispanics, labor, women's groups—have less influence than the organizations that purport to speak for the "swing voters"

tion... cannot be a substitute for the principles that give us purpose and direction in a time of rapid change. This is a different approach from some who now call themselves New Democrats—but who cut their compass only on the position of others—who talk about the political center, but fail to understand that it is only defined by them. It lacks core values and who too often reduces a political strategy masquerading as pragmatism.

The DNC's founders were the original triangulators, long before Dick Gephardt popularized the phrase. Their whole strategy was based on "push-off" politics, to attract corporate funding for public policy research that sought a "third way" between officially declared "old Democrats" and the rising right-wing Republicans.

The truth is far different. The truth, in the immortal words of Mark Shields is that "If the Clinton Democrats have written a new political chapter, sadly, it must be called Chapter II."

This basic truth has been pointed out by Shields, by Kevin Phillips, and by Michael Barone in *The Almanac of American Politics* 1996—that while Clinton himself has been successful at the politics of triangulation, every other level of the Democratic Party has literally collapsed. We would say it's dying of strangulation on by triangulation.

Apply the DNC logic to sports—using DNC strategic thinking, Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson has won his entire career without Steve Kerr. Steve Kerr often provides the "swing" points

of the great heart

of the United States as what he called the greatest threat to peace: "a super-power whose leaders are blinded by the arrogance of their power." In a season wishing peace on earth, goodwill to all, the words of Farkham and the historical context of the words—were thinking about regardless to one's liking or disliking, of the speaker or the words.

Dispute. U.S. Congressional infighting and partisan postboys at the U.S. Attorney General and her office and the FBI, and the president's campaign finance fundraising, there have been significant acts of love by some politicians and public servants who live and work in this town. And the acts of national and international scope taken by Farkham, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the President and Madeleine Albright were deeply rooted in courage and personal strength of character.

Love is the fruit of a grateful heart, nurtured by hidden encounters and tears and fulfillment. It does not come from understanding or even liking another. It pours not alone from the heart, but from the heart, from an uninvited humanistic seeing of self in other. Saddam Hussein as Desmond Tutu, Desmond Tutu as Desmond Tutu. Love is out of a place of grace that knows it is in a state of grace.

To all of you: Love and peace in a season that sees joyful hearts living with love taking courage to love more.

Where was the Amistad Story Before Spielberg?

By Earl Orlaf Hutchinson

Steven Spielberg recently told an interviewer that he wouldn't have made the film *Amistad*, if he couldn't tell it as the story of Joseph Cinque, the reputed leader of the shipboard slave revolt. He felt that the story would only make sense if moviegoers had someone they could identify with.

This approach points to a sad, but painful truth about African American history. While there are scores of heroes and heroic acts in Black history, many African Americans don't know about them. I don't exclude myself. I have written and researched numerous articles and several books about Black experience, yet I was only faintly familiar with the *Amistad* story. I remember that during the early 1970s, San Quentin prison activist, Ron Karenga, and Black co-conspirator Donald DeFreese, the leader of ill-fated the *Symbionese Liberation Army*, styled themselves as rebels and adopted the name of Cinque. Beyond that distant recollection the *Amistad* story seemed to me to be lost in the shadows of history.

It is inescapable. The story is straightforward enough. In 1839, 53 Black slaves were transported illegally from West Africa on a Spanish schooner, the *Amistad*, to Cuba. Another, *Led by Cinque*, the slaves revolted at mid-sea, commandeered the ship, and attempted to sail it back to Africa. They never made it. In a bitter two-year court battle, the case became a cause celebre for abolitionists, drew much national and international attention and stirred political intrigue and controversy. Eventually the *Amistad* captives were freed in a landmark Supreme Court decision and repatriated back to their African homeland.

Despite the current hoopla over the film, there are still only three reasons why the story is so important:

* To run away from base voters.
* To push issues that try to attract "swing voters" (and which demobilize base voters).
* To find issues that appeal to corporate funders and the Washington press corps, such as NAFTA, without regard to their effect on working families.

* To pretend, along with the GOP, that the right wing resurgence in the U.S. has little to do with race.

* To turn FDR and JFK's party into Cleveland's and Clinton's party of big donors, deficit reduction, crime bills, and welfare state.

* To turn a party that used to stand for principles, win or lose, into a party that ships with the polls.

Will Goliath play fair with Black companies?

By John William Templeton

July 1996.

This summer a statement began to appear on Hewlett-Packard's web pages that said it would no longer honor warranties on printers that used the Colossal cartridges. Hewlett-Packard sells \$3 billion worth of printer ink in smaller two-ounce cartridges. Colossal's refillable reservoirs hold 16 ounces, and cost less than half for the equivalent number of Hewlett-Packard cartridges.

First there was an apology letter from Douglas Watson, general manager of the Hewlett-Packard specialty manufacturing division. However, Hewlett-Packard has opted to stop supporting third-party systems after a case in July involving another ink manufacturer, Nu-Kote. The announcement was posted on Hewlett-Packard's web site.

Colossal's response was to file suit. In the 21st century, the new battleground for minority businesses will be in the judicial arena challenging corporate and intellectual property violations.

Colossal's legal action has already borne fruit. Hewlett-Packard removed warranties on printers that used its web page after Colossal presented its story to 10,000 attendees at the annual Black Seminars convention in San Francisco.

Black entrepreneurs must be particularly vigilant when they make proposals to large companies. The standard operating procedure is to get enough information from you to figure out how to do it without you. Jones calls this "the information game."

In the 21st century, corporate responsibility and affirmative action must extend beyond charitable donations to more business areas like distribution channels, venture investments and strategic alliances.

In Silicon Valley, as elsewhere, we must trust the business leaders to make use of their research and development was financed by taxpayer dollars and subsidies. It's time to play fair.

John William Templeton is executive editor of *Griot, the African-American, African and Caribbean Business Daily*.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHICAGO—New edition of critically acclaimed best-selling Tax Guide, "Taxes For Dummies," 1998 edition is available. To order or get more info, call 1-800-782-2974.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

NEW BRUNSWICK—NJN (58) presents "Another View" which looks back at the year in review with highlights from the best programs of the show. Air time is 6:30 p.m.

NEW YORK—Young Black Entrepreneurs, Inc. in association with various African-American Organizations presents an after work event "New Year's Eve party at Le Bar" between 8th and 9th Avenues. For more info, call 718-246-1022.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

TAMPA—Black Pages Publishers Association will have its annual meeting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at New York University, Leach Student Center, Room 310. All member dues must be paid by today.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

NEW YORK—Career counseling for career changes will be provided from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New York University, Leach Student Center, Room 310. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

BASKING RIDGE—You're invited to our monthly networking session to 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Oaks Mill Inn. For more info, call 908-725-1522.

WEST CALDWELL—A comprehensive series of non-credit computer training courses will be held in both 12th and 14th floors of the West Caldwell Marriott. Beginning Jan. 12th. For more info, call 973-254-5451.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Investment Banking, Asset Management, etc. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Midtown Center, room 413. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Commodities Trading at Midtown Center, room 413 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

NEWARK—More than 30 non-credit courses ranging from algebra to learning how to start a small business to computer will be offered through the department's Sat. Youth Program. For more info, call 973-877-3054.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

EAST ORANGE—The 1st Black Business Association networking / Party will be held at the Peppermint Lounge at 5:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-340-7625.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Foreign Exchange and Risk Mgt. at Midtown Center, room 413 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a graduate course for Bayonne, Jersey City and North Bergen teachers via interactive television through NJPS. Topics range from Exceptional Children and Youth in the Regular Classroom. For more info, call 201-200-3448.

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on Financial Planning in Midtown Center, room 413 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

ELIZABETH—A one day seminar on basic supervision for anyone who supervises people at the Holiday Inn. Jersey. To register, call 1-800-821-3919.

NEW YORK—New York University will have a diploma program in credit analysis in Midtown Center, room 413 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1321.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW YORK—New York University will have a seminar on International Business, Finance, Trade, and Traffic in Midtown Center, room 421 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info, call 212-790-1320.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

FARFIELD—A one day seminar on how to be a better boss for purchasing agents, supervisors, officer managers, etc. will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Suites. To register, call 1-800-821-3919.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

NEW YORK—The Professional Women of Color presents their 3rd anniversary celebration honoring women of color who have broken barriers from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Metropolitan Pavilion. For more info, call 212-714-7190.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a Real Estate Licensing Course from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through May 2nd. For more info, call 201-200-3069.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW YORK—A three-day course will be held on Electronic Commerce and Electronic Data Interchange. The course runs through Jan. 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-573-2365.

Two-year old company makes over \$2-million in sales to Philip Morris

NEW YORK—During the recent National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) conference at the New York Hilton and Towers, "the goal," according to NMSDC President, Harriet Michel, was "to bring corporations and minority entrepreneurs together to do business with each other."

It worked admirably for AFAM Knitting Inc., and for Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

Among the more than 4,000 business leaders who attended the three-day conference, considerable interest focused on AFAM's \$2.2-million sale of pocket T-shirts to Philip Morris for its Marlboro Unfiltered Cigar.

Corporate purchasers comparing notes during a conference reception at Philip Morris headquarters, describe AFAM as an "ideal supplier."

AFAM's owners call their firm "the nation's premier manufacturing source for knitted garments."

AFAM Knitting, Inc., a textile spinning, knitting, and finishing firm that also manufactures garments, employs 175 people. Chairman and CEO, Charles Elton, who also serves as vice president of the tri-state chapter of the National Football League Players Association, boasts 20 years of experience as a major textile firm's major textile firm.

Gregory George, AFAM president and chief financial officer, is a



Mike Szymanczyk, President and CEO of Philip Morris, U.S.A., on the right, and Charles Elton, owner of AFAM Knitting Inc., on the left, spent 20 years with a major textile firm after a career in professional football. AFAM President and CFO, Gregory George, left, whose 18-year business career includes planning and financial analysis, is a graduate of the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Philip Morris maintains that its supplier diversity program is good for the company, for vendors and for the nation. Just last year, the company purchased \$743-million in goods and services from minority vendors, and has spent more than \$4 billion since 1963.

One of the first major American corporations to support minority ven-

Just how do Americans spend their money?

Every so often, people call Rutgers Cooperative Extension to obtain information about how typical families spend their money. Some people are just plain curious while others want to compare their spending patterns with other households. Fortunately, household spending data are readily available and are updated frequently to reflect current living costs.

According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, average annual expenditures of U.S. households in 1993 totaled \$30,692. Of this amount, the following percentages were spent on these specific household expenses:

- Housing (including utilities): \$9,636
- Transportation \$5,453
- Food Eaten at Home: \$2,735
- Pensions and Social Security: \$2,509
- Health Care \$1,776
- Clothing: \$1,676
- Food Away From Home: \$1,664
- Alcohol and Tobacco Products: \$536
- Personal (e.g., Life) Insurance: \$399
- Other Expenses: \$4,308

Surprised at these figures? Remember that they are national averages and reflect different living costs throughout the U.S. Many households are seeking ways to reduce their spending to free up funds for saving and debt reduction. If you are among them, consider these tips from financial expert Carry Less Cash and Plastic—If you have money with you, you're likely to spend it.

Ditto for ATM cards that give you

access to cash. Studies also show that people with credit cards spend about a third more than those using cash. Avoid the use of "plastic" for disposable items like vacations and meals unless it is for convenience and bills are promptly repaid.

Winhold and Spending—For an entire month, have everyone in your family record what they earn and spend. At the end of the month, tally up the numbers. You'll probably be surprised at how small "miscellaneous" items add up. Use these figures as a guide for developing a realistic spending plan (budget).

Taxes Correctly—if you're constantly getting large (over \$1,000) tax refunds, you're giving Uncle Sam a very attractive interest-free loan. Instead, adjust form W-4 with your employer and keep some of this money as you earn it.

Give Children an Allowance—It's generally cheaper than being "nickel and dimed" and can teach children important money management skills (e.g., goal-setting). Be sure to set ground rules about what an allowance does or does not cover (e.g., lunch money) or you'll still be "nickel and dimed."

Use Equal Payment Plans—Put irregular expenses (e.g., utilities, car insurance) on an equal payment plan by dividing the annual expense by 12. This will avoid large irregular bills that people sometimes have no choice but to pay with a loan or credit card. Some companies, like fact oil companies, will set up an equal payment plan for you.

Questions to ask when selecting a bank

For a variety of reasons, people often find themselves needing to select a new bank. Perhaps they've moved and they need a bank closer to where they live or work. Or perhaps they've stayed put and the management and fees of their bank have changed. For the worse. Another reason for changing banks is a desire to earn more interest on savings or take advantage of specific products and services that some banks offer (e.g., tax department, sale of investment products, senior accounts).

Whatever your reason for selecting a new bank, it is wise to plan ahead. This is especially true if you have paychecks or Social Security checks automatically deposited into your accounts and/or pre-authorized withdrawals (e.g., "check-o-matic" insurance premiums, automatic mutual fund deposits).

So what should you look for in a bank account? Experts advise paying attention to the 3 C's: cost, convenience, and customer service. To determine the cost of an account, first ask yourself the following questions:

- Approximately how many checks will I write per month?
- How much money can I keep in checking and/or savings?
- Then ask the following questions of a financial institution:
- Is checking free (i.e., no monthly charge or per-check charge)? If not, what is the cost?
- If yes, what is the minimum balance required to avoid a fee?
- How is the minimum balance calculated (i.e., monthly average balance or the account balance on any given day)?

What is the minimum balance required to open a savings account and maintain it without paying fees?

What are the charges for overdraft accounts, cashier's checks, stop-payments, and deposited checks "bounced" by others?

Is interest paid on an account? If so, what is the rate and is there a minimum balance required?

To determine convenience, consider the following questions:

- 1. Where are bank branches located?
- 2. What are the bank's non-hour banking hours?
- 3. Are ATMs available for "after-hours" transactions?
- 4. Is overdraft protection and direct deposit available?

"Customer Service" is more intangible and, thus, hard to determine with answers to questions. It's the good feeling you get when your personal needs are met with prompt and courteous service by bank personnel. Personal experience and referrals by friends can be invaluable.

Research indicates that between 15 percent and 20 percent of U.S. households do not have a bank account. Instead, they rely on costly check-cashing outlets and use money orders. These people do not have a bank account to pay bills. In New Jersey, a better option exists: the consumer checking account. Required by law, these accounts are available at all banks. They cost \$3 per month, allow balances to drop as low as \$1. Eight checks can be written each month, with a cost of 50 cents for each additional check.

Johnson & Johnson executive Bloomfield College trustee board

BLOOMFIELD—Jean-Pierre Naegeli of Upper Montclair, Director of New Ventures, Johnson & Johnson Development Corporation, has been elected to the Bloomfield College Board of Trustees. He joins a group of prominent civic, business, educational and religious leaders dedicated to guiding the College into the 21st century.

"Jean-Pierre Naegeli has distinguished himself in his professional endeavors," said Board Chairman Richard A. Pollack. "The College is certain to benefit greatly from his

vision and his interest in advancing the College's mission - to prepare students to function at the peak of their potential in a multicultural, multicultural society."

Mr. Naegeli has served as Director of New Ventures for Johnson & Johnson Development Corporation, Johnson & Johnson's venture capital subsidiary, for the past two years. Previously, Mr. Naegeli served as Associate Director of Science & Technology and Manager of Advanced Technologies for Johnson & Johnson.

Tips on commercial building upkeep

Winter is tough on commercial buildings. Freezing temperatures, ice and snow can cause severe damage unless you take precautions.

Automatic sprinkler systems can burst if they're not protected against the cold. Roofs can collapse from the weight of ice and snow. Even your heating system can get knocked out of commission by cold weather if it's not properly maintained.

A free booklet from The Hanover Insurance Company offers suggestions on how to help prevent winter weather from damaging property. It also includes a cold-weather maintenance checklist.

The booklet gives tips preventing roof damage, maintaining heating equipment, protecting sprinkler systems, preventing underground mains from freezing, keeping fire hydrants ice free and devising a cold-weather protection plan.

For a free copy of "Keeping Commercial Properties Protected from the Cold," send your name and address to Betty Mangini at The Hanover Insurance Company, 100 North Parkway, H260, Worcester, MA 01605 or e-mail her at bmanigini-allmerica.com.

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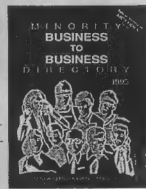
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The Minority Business to Business Directory

The Directory is a directory of minority-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority businesses with whom public and private sector businesses

and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The Minority Business to Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and women-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business to Business Directory is another tool for the growth and expansion of minority entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.



A listing includes: company name, address, telephone, fax, product or service description, type of ownership, contact person & title, MBE certification (if applicable). Fill out form below and mail to: 1998 Minority Business to Business Directory, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061 or FAX: (908) 753-1036. Deadline for placing your listing is January 29, 1998. Published in March 1998.

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ADDRESS: _____

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THE SEVEN PRINCIPALS OF KWANZAA



Nguzo Baba

Seven principals for seven days

The spirit nurtured in New Jersey's largest city by people like Amiri and Amiri Baraka and celebration center Maaulana Karenga continues to grow and gain strength. Today, Kwanzaa is celebrated by over 13 million people in North and South America, the Caribbean and Europe. Thirty years ago, Newark was one of the first cities to observe this time of feasting, fasting and cultural reaffirmation that falls in the week between Christmas and January 1.

This holiday celebrates seven principals with seven symbols over seven days. This repetition of the number seven is not an accident or a coincidence, but a beginning from where we can start this period of self-examination. In addition to the number seven being indivisible, the great religions of the world accept seven as a mystical number of the Creator. It is also the force of power in each of us to achieve what we will-individuality and collectivity.

As we exchange Zawadi and commemorate the physical and spiritual communion of family and friends, the most important activity in Kwanzaa is to plan for the year to come and work toward making ourselves better as a community and as a people. Kwanzaa is the time for us to honor the past and take of the future of our present. It is also a time to strategize our future and consider the wonderful possibilities.

— g.r. mattox, Assistant Editor City News.

Day One: Unity

Link and Build

By Kai Attha Niyono

Unity, the first principle of Kwanzaa, is very important for us to overstand if we are going to be successful as we approach the new millennium. It is not accidental or coincidental that at the crux of the word "Unity" is U-N-I-T. "Unite" means to join together. In the word "Unity" is the word "unit" which means one. We must unite as one. As Busta Rhymes and Erykah Badu sing in their song, "One," "we must have one mind state so we can equally live..." There's a lot of science in that one line. Reflect.

We must apply the principles of Kwanzaa to our daily lives. We must cease being envious and jealous of one another and work to help one another grow and develop. Willie Lynch designed a plan to DIVIDE and CONQUER us and he was successful. Let us apply the plan that has been established by us for us, to UNITE and do for ourselves what others are doing for themselves.

Allah (God) created the universe which comprise of nine planets and the Sun (1). Notice in the word, "universe" there is U-N-I-T. It's not accidental or coincidental. Everything in the universe is rooted in Mathematics, created by us, mastered by us, so "know" what time it is! Time to "unite" and "build." In unity the nine planets make their way around the Sun (at their own speed) but nevertheless, they are all making "motion" around the Sun.

We must unite our organizations in each community to strive towards the complete upliftment of our community. Notice in the word "community" there are the words "U-N-I-T," "unit" and "unity." We unite to develop the youth (our future) on all levels to be constructive and productive so they know they do not have to resort to selling death and destruction (drugs) in order to survive. We must teach them how to get a job or create a job (legally). We must unite our Churches, our Mosques, our Synagogues periodically, putting our religious ideology aside (for the good of the common whole), to organize an overall agenda for the upliftment of our community. We must unite our efforts to assist those who want and/or need our help to change the conditions under which we live.

One Love!

Kai Attha Niyono is the Production Assistant for City News Publishing Company.

Day Two: Self Determination

A master of the game

By John L. Ruddock, III

A climate of alienation, has a profound effect on the Black personality, particularly on the educated Black who has the opportunity to see how the rest of the world regards him and his people. It often happens that the Black intellectual thus loses confidence in his own potential, and that of his race. Often the effect is so crushing that some Black, having evidence to the contrary, still find it hard to accept the fact that we really were the first to civilize the world.

—Cheikh Anta Diop

As we approach the new millennium, we, as a people, have a responsibility. This responsibility is not only for ourselves, but also for our posterity. We face the challenge to determine for ourselves what our paths shall be for the next century. This path, once taken, must be designed with our needs—our own needs, our families' needs, and our communities' needs up front and in center of our decisions.

We must develop a system through which we can openly communicate our needs to each other, and in doing so offer support, solutions, and guidance to each other. We must create a foundation for the free exchange of ideas in the African American community. For too long we have played the role of the chess piece, and not the chess player. Now is the time for us to become Masters of the Game. As stated by Haki R. Madhubuti, in his book, *Black Men: Obsolete Single, Dangerous? (Third World, 1990)* "Black men...once strong and full of hope, are now knee-less, voice broken, homeless, forgotten, and terrorized...dependents on a system that considers them less than human, and treats them with less dignity and respect than dead dogs..." I will never forgive white people for what they have done to African American men, women, and children. This is our story and this time we are not asking for or waiting on apologies and handouts.

Self-determination is critical to our survival. We cannot afford to imitate others, for as Black people, we have a grave matter to be faced to resist a people for whom you know—who is the price of your performance and survival—that you do not exist. It is hard to imitate a people whose existence appears, mainly, to be made tolerable by their bottomless gratitude that they are not, in fact, heaven, joy.

If we find our own path, and follow it, we will be embodying the spirit of *Kulichachosa* (self-determination). This principle, and the seven principles of Kwanzaa, are here to guide us as a people back to the greatness which is our birthright. These principles, if we live by them can sustain us into and beyond the next century.

John L. Ruddock, III, is a Marketing Associate for City News Publishing Company.

Day Three: Collective Work and Responsibility

Prepare yourself through effort

By Jan M. Edgenton Johnson

"The American black man should be focusing his every effort toward building his own businesses and decent homes for himself. As other ethnic groups have done, let the black people, whenever possible, however possible, patronize their own kind, hire their own kind, and start in some ways to build up the race's ability to do for itself by starting his own programs to lift up his own sense of values." —Malcolm X

The concept of Ujamaa is simple yet basic to the uplifting of black people. We must focus on those things that will help our people collectively to prosper and enjoy a quality standard of living.

This means our leaders must lead for black people not for personal gain, our teachers must teach our children with the need for them excel not just to get a paycheck, our ministers must preach the Word and how we live according to that Word, our newspapers must be an advocate for black people, our law enforcement officials must seek justice according to what is right and moral. Black people must return to the traditions of education, business, religion, moral conduct and uplifting one another.

Every black man, woman and child must accept the responsibility for working to restore and expand those traditions that conquered slavery, Jim Crow, segregation and now must conquer our dignity and apathy.

Finally, we thought for Ujamaa we prepare yourself through effort, education, business, and interpersonal skills to guarantee success in anything you do. With this foundation, help others to harvest success and you automatically benefit.

Jan Edgenton Johnson is Editor in Chief of City News Publishing Company.

Day Four: Economics

Work and wealth run in our roots

By Jeremie Johnson

"At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion, there must be for our race economic independence."

—Booker T. Washington

On the fourth day of Kwanzaa we celebrate Ujamaa meaning collective work. But what does collective work really mean?

In early African civilization skilled laborers, wealthy employers, market systems and international trade existed. With the beginning of slavery the most skilled, strongest black folk were purged slave ships and brought to this country. They used their agricultural skills and innovation to make white America prosperous. This country was built on the backs of blacks.

With the separation of the races blacks had to rely on other blacks to supply their needs. They spent their money with the black miller, grower, carpenter, merchant and stomp house. They bought within their community because they had to. To turn those millers, growers, carpenters, merchants and others feed their families and employ other community folk. Sons and daughters worked in their mom and pop's stores in hopes of owning the business one day. Blacks set up banks that helped families buy homes and start businesses.

With the 1950s move toward integration blacks would be allowed to spend their money in white stores. Hoovey for the white man and a setback for the black community. Today we see black communities that have high unemployment, a lack of quality housing, poor grocery stores, and no entertainment venues. Caring for the black cities, left when whites flew to the suburbs—suburbs that we're originally thought to be substantial. In New Jersey, there has been a boom about our job growth. But, how many of those jobs have been created in the cities? Not many. New Jersey may be realizing that one major city within the state is important with the opening of Newark's NJPAC. Now, it's up blacks to patronize this business in our community along with others. It's up to blacks to make sure that NJPAC gives back to the community with entertainment and jobs. In other words, it's a collective effort in which everyone has a part in success.

In the 1960s we heard of welfare and mainstream media often shows us a black family. But, the truth is that the black family has always contributed to the economics of this country. The black woman entered the workforce decades before the white woman. The black man has worked far harder with no pay than any white man in this country. Work is a part of our heritage.

True wealth is formed through communities that support their black business owners and organizations. It may be most important to share the message of cooperative economics with youth. In a day where minimum wage isn't enough to live on they must understand the importance of economics, work and responsibility.

Jeremie Johnson is Managing Editor of City News.

Day Five: Purpose

Reach farther, aim higher

By John L. Ruddock, III

NIA means "purpose". To intend, to resolve, to plan, to aim.

Ask yourself: Are we as a people content to continue as we are? Is not the nature of the human spirit to progress, to move forward? Do we not, in having children, building families, and creating communities, seek to become greater than ourselves, to move forward as a people? As we celebrate Kwanzaa, let us rejoice in our sense of NIA, of purpose. We are the guardians of our children's future. We are here to ensure that they can dream, and are able to make their dreams come true. To do any of these things, and ourselves of their sense of NIA, their ability to reach farther, to aim higher. We must remember the words of George Clements, "Nurture our children with confidence. They can't make it if they are constantly told that they won't." Here lies our potential for greatness. How many times have we asked ourselves what is our reason for being? If we can find within ourselves, our families, and our communities, the resolve to give our youth the knowledge that they are the secret of our strength, the reason for our being, and that they lie at the very heart of our purpose, then we will have accomplished our reason for being, and fulfilled our NIA.

Day Six: Creativity

Passing Traditions and Culture

By Sonya Kimble-Ellis

Kuumba (creativity), the third principal of Kwanzaa, means "To do as much as we can, in any way we can, in order to leave our community a better and more beautiful place."

Creativity as a form of expression and communication has long been a staple in the African-American community. From the sounds and rhythms of beating drums in Africa, to the graces on the front porches in rural southern towns, to hiphop's writings on stone walls, Kuumba has been a way of passing on traditions, messages, culture and information.

These traditions now serve in different, more modern ways that reflect the times. Though many adults may not understand or like rap music, it acts as a creative way of self and community expression among youth.

Chuck D of the group Public Enemy calls hip hop "an information network of young people from coast to coast." Through rap, young people in Atlanta had a way of knowing what was going on with youth in California; and kids in New Jersey knew what was happening with their peers in Chicago. That form of African and Caribbean-inspired influence of the spoken word over music has now found its way to other shores, prompting youth in places like England and Japan to follow suit.

While hiphop's writings and carvings give us insight as to the way people think and during those times, the Kuumba bestowed upon us by writer James Baldwin chronicled life growing up in the black church, the alienation experienced by many during the post-slavery and civil rights era, and life as an African-American living abroad.

Baldwin wasn't the only writer whose Kuumba mirrored some of our own experiences. Richard Wright's Invisible Man creatively and honestly depicted the invisibility factor experienced today by many people of color... experienced when applying for jobs or bank loans, or when the person behind the counter or desk refuses to acknowledge your presence or takes just a little too long in doing so.

Kuumba by no means only shows itself in the creative arts. Peoples of African descent use Kuumba in everyday life. A carpenter uses it to build things, a mother uses it to juggle the many tasks involved in caring for her children, and a police officer uses it to bring calm to a violent situation.

And as Kuumba is the only principle celebrated by a feast, known as Karamu, it honors the traditional creativity that goes into making dishes that are unique to African-American. Kuumba is active in all of us, year round. We should honor and develop it in ourselves and others, every day.

Sonya Kimble-Ellis is the Managing Editor of The Minority Business Journal.

Day Seven: Faith

The next rung on the ladder

By Diane Folk

God has given every man a portion of faith and we all are at different levels as we journey on life's highways. We put our faith to exercise everyday in many ways. You come to a job, you do your work, you expect to get paid, that's faith. You have faith, that by the time you do your forty hours worth of work per week, or whatever it may be, at the end of that pay period, you're going to get paid. That's when your faith comes into operation, expectation. So when you receive that paycheck, that what you expected has been realized. But it doesn't stop there. You look forward to the next week or the next pay period. So we all operate on faith daily, continuously.

The spirit of Imani is applied always in our everyday lives, every second, every minute. Even when you wake up in the morning you operate by faith that you'll be able to sit up, put your feet on the floor, get up and walk to the bathroom to perform your daily ablutions. Do what is necessary to get to the next step.

We constantly operate on faith. Whatever is next, whatever you look forward to. We all have faith. We may not realize it's faith but it is faith. What most people don't realize is that they tend to lose sense of their true goals or opportunities. Some people's faith is stronger than others, or they realize what it really is. Faith has a lot to do with what you say and what you believe. If you believe it, really believe it, then it should come out of your mouth.

I say that I'm Blessed and I am Blessed. The more that I say that I'm Blessed, the more it's true.

Faith is seeking, the striving for, the desire, the want. It seems like it's always there. There's always a little spark. God has given everyone something to look forward to. Anything that you can think of or imagine is obtainable. Nothing is impossible with God.

Diane Folk is the receptionist for City News Publishing Company.

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Alzheimer's Association offers information to youth

CHICAGO—"Why does Grandma keep asking me the same question?" "Why does Grandma call me by my dad's name?" "Will I get Alzheimer's, too?" To help families answer these difficult and emotional questions, better understand Alzheimer's disease, and help children cope, the Alzheimer's Association has created a new brochure for parents and fun activity worksheets for children and teens.

"Alzheimer's disease has a major impact on families and can be especially confusing and frightening to children," said Thomas Kirk, vice president of patient, family and education services for the association. "It's important to help them understand what is happening to their loved one and how they can help."

The brochure, "Helping Children and Teens Understand Alzheimer's Disease," explains the emotions children and teens may experience when coping with a parent or family member who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It also prepares parents for the types of questions their children may ask and offers activity suggestions that can benefit both the person with Alzheimer's disease and the child. "Jigs for Children" and "Jigs for Teens" are educational and fun worksheets that can help children understand why their loved one is acting a certain way and how they can help. The worksheets include word scrambles, imagination exercises and activity suggestions.

The Alzheimer's Association is the only voluntary national health organization dedicated to research, and to providing support and assistance to people with Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers. Founded in 1980, the association works through a network of more than 200 chapters across the country.

The Alzheimer's Association has publications, programs and services to provide education and support to families. Many chapters offer support groups and other educational activities specifically for young people.

To receive a complimentary copy of the brochure and worksheets, call the Alzheimer's Association at (800) 272-3900.

Low-income workers, families can get free eye exams

TRENTON—Low-income workers and their families in New Jersey can sign up now to receive free eye care in March through a program called VISION USA.

Ophthalmologists who are members of the New Jersey Optometric Association are among nearly 8,000 optometrists nationwide who are donating their services through VISION USA to provide free comprehensive eye exams to low-income people in March.

To qualify for the free eye care, people must have a job or live in a household in which at least one member is working part-time, have no health insurance that covers eye exams; meet certain income criteria based on household size; and not have had an eye exam at a doctor's office within the last two years.

Applicants will also be screened for eligibility by phone but only from January 2 through to 30, 1998. The number to call then is 1-800-766-4466. Phone lines will be open weekdays from

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (CST).

"There is no doubt in my mind that many people in low-income families are being held down because they can't see well enough to do their jobs or to learn in school," said Dr. Baker. "Some also have eye health conditions that could cause blindness if left untreated."

Dr. Baker said approximately 220,000 low-income children and adults have received free eye care in the first seven years of the VISION USA program. Among the 20,000 examined last year, more than seven out of every 100 had eye health conditions and seven out of ten needed a new eyeglass prescription.

People can obtain application forms from VISION USA, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141. Completed forms must be postmarked by January 23, 1998, according to Shelby Baker, OD, Burlington, New Jersey, the VISION USA coordinator for New Jersey.

Heart doctor award recipient



North Brunswick—Trevor Atherley, MD, in picture, center, a cardiologist with Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, is pictured after receiving the American Heart Association Howard Dayton Award. Pictured with Atherley are Hela Feilman, at left, chairman of the American Heart Association, and Charles Dennis, MD (at right), president of the American Heart Association, co-recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award. The presentation to Trevor Atherley was made before more than 200 volunteers and supporters at the American Heart Association's recent delegate assembly annual meeting and awards reception at the Princeton Marriott in Princeton. 1998 will mark the 50th anniversary of the American Heart Association as a national voluntary health organization. For more information, call your local American Heart Association or call 1-800-634-1AHA. (Photograph by William Wallace)

Family room for parents of seriously ill children at University Hospital



NEWARK—The Auxiliary at UMDNJ-University Hospital in Newark recently dedicated a new family room for families of seriously ill children. Marcia Harrison, University Hospital Administrative Resident, in photo at left, and University Hospital CEO William L. Vazquez, FACHE, at right, are pictured with Auxiliaries Louise Epperson at the ribbon cutting ceremony. The \$20,000 Pediatric Special Care Unit Family Room features sleeper couches and chairs so parents who are spending the night with their children have a comfortable place to stay while remaining near their children. A tropical fish tank and artwork by Irvington artist Ray Horner help make the room as attractive as it is comfortable. The Whitney Houston Pediatric Special Care Unit at University Hospital is a state-of-the-art unit enabling doctors at University Hospital to provide treatment for the most serious conditions affecting children including trauma, brain disorders and liver diseases. The highly specialized unit has four beds dedicated for pediatric specialty services. It features cheery, comforting decorations and the latest in medical equipment.

Blood donations needed during holiday seasons

The Blood Center of New Jersey is announcing blood drive locations and asking healthy adults to call and sign up to donate. "With the holidays just around the corner and leading into colder weather, donations organizations sponsor blood drive amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This leads to shortages, so we are urging community residents to support the groups who are making an extra special effort by holding holiday time blood drives."

Donors must be 18 years of age. Seventeen year olds may donate with

parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the last two years, or have a doctor's note. Donors should know their social security number and bring a signed form of identification. People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 72 hour deferral for dental work, including routine teeth cleaning. For those who have traveled outside of the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria. For more information or to sign up for a

blood drive, call the blood center at 1-800 BLOOD NJ (256-4365).

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Billboard

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

NEWARK—American Ballet Theatre to perform the classic, *Cinderella* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

NEW YORK, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company, celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7146.

NEW YORK—Benny Powell on Trombone, Jane Jarvis on piano and Earl May on bass will perform through the 27th at Zinno's Bar and Restaurant. For more info, call 212-924-5182.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

JERSEY CITY—Kwanzaa celebration will be held 5 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library (Cultural Arts Center). For more info, call 547-4505.

NEW YORK, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company, celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7146.

NEWARK—American Ballet Theatre to perform the classic, *Cinderella* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

NEWARK—American Ballet Theatre to perform the classic, *Cinderella* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

NEW YORK—Playwrights Horizons presents "Mud River Stone" by Lynn Nottage at 8:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-279-4200.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

CHERRY HILL—The Big Band Jazz Series presents Rhythm Machine will perform at the Hilton Hotel from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more info, call 609-665-6666.

NEW YORK—Zinno's Bar & Restaurant presents Junior Mance on piano, Joe Tensley on Saxophone and Earl May on Bass. For your information, call 212-924-5182.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre presents "Forever Ella" starring Cleo Laine and the John Darkin Group from 8 p.m. to 10:20 p.m. For more info, call 732-247-7200.

NEW YORK—Thirteen/ WNET taps the 1997 holiday season with "An Ode to Joy: The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra", a special 90-min. concert at 9:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-950-2000.

METUCHEN—The Forum Theatre is pleased to announce a special New Year's Eve performance at 7:30 p.m. of the Off-Broadway hit "Pump Boys and Ditchdiggers". For more info, call 732-548-4870.

Legacy and tradition at First Masquerade Ball

NEWARK—The African American Heritage Ball Committee soared to new heights of celebration and affirmation with its first Masquerade Ball at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center recently. The Ball was conceived as an annual opportunity for people to give something back and become part of an exciting and historical milestone, enhancing pride, dignity, and style in our communities. It celebrates the legacy of African American heritage reflected in the Statewide Parade, and the theme "building a tradition".

Professional and business associations, civil rights organizations, chapters of fraternities and sororities, social and community groups, and individuals from all parts of New Jersey attended this fun and fantastic event. Donald Bernard, Sr., co-chair of the event with Newark Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump, commented, "Together we made a difference, and that is part of our tradition." He added, "proceeds from the Ball will help underwrite the 1998 statewide African American Heritage parade, in which we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary." "Sophisticated Ladies" and distinguished gentlemen danced on the Prudential Hall stage to music provided by the legendary Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of Paul Mercer Ellington, Grammy Award Nominee Jason "Malleman" Taylor, was rocking in the majestic lobby and rounds. In the Banquet Room the phenomenal Houston Person and Ella Jones, sponsored by Technology Concepts Group, wove musical magic. The Ball was a flowing evening with guests having an opportunity to experience the entire NJPAC complex.



ARTZ SCENE

IN CONCERT:
B.B. King and Bobby "Blue" Bland at Prudential Hall
One of our foremost interpreters of the blues, Grammy winner and legendary blues star B.B. King has been making soulful music for nearly five decades. In a concert on Thursday, January 15, 1998 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, King is sure to shake the house with special guest star Bobby "Blue" Bland. For information, call 1-888-GO-PAC.

VISUAL STIMULI:
Jazz to warm the eyes and soul at WBGO's art exhibit
Painter Chaz Guest and photographer Dorlan Rotner are on exhibit at the WBGO, Jazz 88.3 FM studios through December 31. The colorful palettes, sultry ambience and clear visual narratives of the jazz scene are the theme of the exhibition. Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 54 Park Place in Newark.

VISUAL STIMULI:
Artist Janet Taylor Pickett to hold

Show at Kent Place Gallery "Works from the Black and Blue Series" an exhibit from the diverse body of works by Janet Taylor Pickett, will be on display at the Kent Place Gallery, January 5-30, 1998. A reception for the artist, who is inspired by such artist as Romare Beardon and Jacob Lawrence will be held Friday, January 6 from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited; admission is free.



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Magoo does it again

Walt Disney's newest film is the live action "MR. MAGOO", which retains all the wacky spirit of the 1960s cartoon classic, but is full of fast-action, sparkling humor and high-flying stunts. This hilarious comedy features the thrill-packed, side-splitting antics of the lovable Mr. Magoo, his nephew Waldo, and his dog Angus. When a stolen gem lands in the possession of bumbling millionaire Quincy Magoo (Leslie Nielsen), a sinister plot is hatched to steal it back. Perpetuating the target of evil culprits, Magoo consistently manages to escape unharmed, totally oblivious to the dangers that surround him. Hunted by robbers and set up by a conniving female thief (Kelly Lynch), Magoo ultimately nabs the real villains with the help of his nephew, Waldo (Maff Keeslar), and his trusty bulldog, Angus. Ultimately, Magoo is hailed a hero.



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CHRISTMAS DAY

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Local Briefs

Freeholders continue live-reachings services to county's neediest

ELIZABETH—The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed resolutions that will continue special services for County residents who need them most.

The Union County Department of Human Services will help people with disabilities gain greater self-sufficiency and provide low-income families with help ranging from comprehensive counseling to cash assistance. "During this time of year, when the spirit of giving is paramount, it is very rewarding to be able to continue services that make people's lives a little easier," said Freeholder Carol Cohen.

Consuls and community leaders from South Africa to attend New Community dedication of South Africa room

NEWARK—Consuls from the Consulate of South Africa in New York, along with five leaders of Goldfields Metropolitan Community Development Corporation of South Africa, will join New Community Corporation at the dedication of its South Africa Room at St. Joseph Plaza in Newark.

The South Africa Room contains a collection of art from South Africa that will be on permanent display in the largest conference room. Ina Nicholson, Chairperson of Goldfields Metropolitan Community Development Corporation, her colleagues were attending week-long seminar on community development conducted by New Community.

Bloomfield College students to participate in leadership program

BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield College juniors Marie Durand, Janelle Ryan and Tio-Carlo Strum were selected to participate in the College Leadership New Jersey, a program designed to prepare college students for a lifetime of service and leadership in their communities and careers.

Over the past four years, 14 Bloomfield College students have participated in the program. Durand, a sociology/criminal justice major from Irvington; Ryan, a political science major from Camden; and Strum, a biology major from St. Croix, will spend the week of January 9-16 at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, where they will attend seminars and workshops on leadership, public education, community service, politics and the media.

First Night Newark Arts Line-up

First Night Newark will ring in 1998 with an outstanding line-up of performances and arts activities for the entire family when downtown Newark becomes a stage for the annual New Year's Eve celebration of the Arts.

Dance, music, theater, poetry, film art, and unexpected happenings will fill the city's streets, plazas, parks, storefronts, churches, building facades and stages from 5:30pm to midnight on Wednesday, December 31.

As at the 2001 First Night celebrations take place in other cities throughout the United States and Canada, First Night Newark will be an alcohol-free family event that places a priority on using the arts to connect people together, said Mayor Sharpe James. "This community will make First Night Newark a family tradition. I think that's great."

Festivities begin with the official First Night Newark opening ceremony in Washington Park followed by a festive Grand Peoples procession of community participants down Broad Street, all toting decorative plaster casts of their feet in honor of this year's theme, "Let It Be A Dance".

Some of the featured artists at the celebration include internationally known mime Yass Hakoshima; gospel sensations, the Brower Brothers and Redemption; jazz music with Winard Harper, Ebony Brass, and the Nevv Arkestra; opera, workshops, and theatricals with Opera Ebony; contemporary and traditional dance by The Seventh Principal and DanceCompass; and a Latin music dance party with the David Oquendo Orchestra.

"It's a great way for people to take a chance on performers they've never seen before, or types of art and music they've wondered about," said Councilwoman Gayle H. Chaneyfield-Jenkins, chair of the Quality of Life Committee. "We have planned many events, such as the Hip Hop Dance Party, that will attract Newark teenagers with the hope that they will also experience the Opera and visit an art exhibit."

The evening concludes with a dance in Military Park at the Wild Video Dance Party and a spectacular fireworks show on the Passaic riverfront at Midnight.

"This is a night to experiment," comments Quality of Life committee member Councilman Hank Martinez.

For admission and additional information call First Night Newark at 973-643-7502.

NJPAC Theater Academy brings stage artistry to New Jersey schools



NEWARK—Eighteen professional theater artists, ranging from playwrights to performers, are currently artist-in-residence at New Jersey middle and high schools this fall, as part of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Theater Academy program.

Approximately 1,300 students explore fundamentals in these artistic disciplines during two 90-minute sessions per week, held in their own school. Other components of the Theater Academy include comprehensive curriculum materials, parent/teacher/child workshops, professional development workshops performances at NJPAC. In photo artist-in-residence Jim Peakin works with students at Central High School in Orange.

Trial lawyers warn families about 'most dangerous' toys

TRENTON—With the holiday season here, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America-New Jersey (ATLA-NJ) joins consumer organizations in alerting the public to the tragic risks involved in purchasing dangerous toys.

The consumer advocate organization, World Against Toys Causing Harm (WATCH) warns that: "The marketplace this season remains filled with nationally known and immediately recognizable toy products which

present unnecessary risks of injury to our children."

WATCH cautions consumers about two particular categories of toys—electrical products like the "Nightlighter" that are designed to look like toys and thus draw small children into playing with them—and toys that contain candy and send a confusing message to children about putting toys in their mouths, heightening the danger of choking incidents.

A celebration of African-American dolls at the New Jersey State Museum

A Celebration of African-American Dolls from the Betwansuela Collection will be a featured holiday exhibition at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton through January 4, 1998. The exhibition includes more than 50 items from the large collection of African-American dolls.

The dolls in this special exhibition were selected from hundreds of items in the Betwansuela Collection. The exhibition contains a variety of examples

representing educators, scientists, religious, and community leaders.

The contemporary dolls include stars of sports and entertainment, such as Muhammad Ali, Louis Armstrong and Michael Jordan.

The New Jersey State Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 4:45 pm, and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For information or directions, call 609-292-6464.

Central High School experiences the renaissance

R. Carlos Garcia

Central High School in Newark, New Jersey has two things going for them. A dedicated principle and a group of successful business, educational, and community partners who are determined to "break the mold," and turn Central around for the better. Maurice Maurice, the new principle at Central is working diligently with these partners to ensure the fruition of the Renaissance Project, an attempt to empower students to expand their horizons and become more academically inclined.

The state is entering its third year of control over Newark's educational system. One of the worst in the nation, the state stepped in hoping to avoid catastrophe in its largest city. Principle Maurice admitted that in the past Central wasn't taking the right steps to succeed, "...as you know when it comes to test scores we are at the bottom of the heap...all areas that suggest success, we are not where we're supposed to be."

But that there are new attitudes and ideas in the works. "I have a clear vision for CHS. I did assess the situation. The Renaissance project has taken many steps to help Central's students improve their grades and test scores. They have also provided funding for a number of programs here," Maurice said. "Including a High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) prep program that took place last year where they provided tutorial services for close to 100

youngsters. Eighty-seven of them did participate and complete the program."

Needless to say HSPT results are eagerly being awaited.

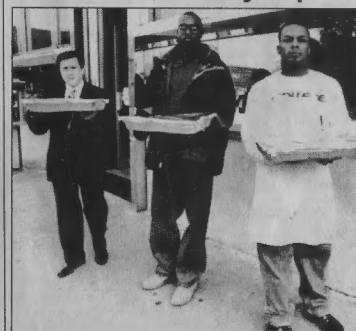
In 1994-95 only 34 percent of CHS students passed the HSPT reading section, 59.7 percent was the district requirement.

In 1996 however practice scores indicated a healthy increase in reading scores but a drop in math. Over this past summer though another welcomed increase occurred raising the percentage of correct answers in reading to 45 percent and math to 56 percent.

There is a sense of optimism in Maurice's demeanor, which is warranted as he is undertaking an enormous challenge. When asked what the most serious problems he faces in getting the project to work he replied, "The youngsters don't understand the value of an education...we want to make them realize that school and education are the path to success...and (that) what you do today will determine your options later on in life."

"Around February we will be going to the middle schools to hold different assemblies for the eighth graders and over the summer we'll have a four week upward bound session for eighth graders." In addition, "...the Early Warning Test (EWT) is a precursor, it gives us an indication of which students will pass the HSPT and which ones aren't ready to take it yet."

In the holiday spirit



BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield College students got a true taste of the holiday spirit by organizing a Thanksgiving dinner delivery service for several community-based organizations in the Newark area. The project, created by the College's Male Empowerment Network (MEN), provided more than 220 meals to five organizations in the Essex County Area. Gus Gallios, at left, owner of Willie's Diner in Bloomfield, donated food to the dinner delivery service project. Pictured with Mr. Gallios are project coordinators Eric Deberry and Aqueel Washington.

Tobacco Companies Flooded Trenton With Cash. What Did It Buy?



Tobacco interests gave more money to state legislators from 1992 to 1996 than any other industry.*

Why? Because they want to stop proven measures that would reduce teen smoking and save lives. Measures like increasing the state tobacco tax.

Where do your state Senate and Assembly legislators stand on the tobacco tax? And how much money have they taken from tobacco interests?

* Source: League of Women Voters 6/97

Tobacco vs. Kids. Where NJ Draws the Line.

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NJBreathes

A Tobacco Control Coalition

Get Involved. Call (609) 898-1766 x257 or visit www.kickbuttnj.com

This ad sponsored by:

Medical Society of New Jersey; American Cancer Society, NJ Division; NJ Chapters of American Lung Association & American Heart Association; GFO Energy; NJ GASP; Cancer Institute of New Jersey; NJ Public Health Association

Coupons will be forwarded to your state legislators. To find out who your legislators are, call 1-800-792-VOTE.

Celebrate the new year by joining the

City News Community Network

a focus on cooperative economics in New Jersey's urban and black communities

Join the network of churches, organizations and businesses in the City News network section featuring religious news, careers, social services, education, housing and jobs.

Don't miss the first issue in March as New Jersey black and urban communities, organizations, churches and social agencies join to make our communities better.

For details call Jan Johnson at (908) 754-3400 or look for our home page on the internet starting January 15.

City News Community Network

Bringing People Together

May you have peace, joy & prosperity during this holiday season all throughout the new year.

From the staff of City News

AMALGAMATED PUBLISHERS, INC. NEW YORK CHICAGO LOS ANGELES

Kwanzaa

*Full Black Men In Honor
Muhammad Ali,
Ervin "Magic" Johnson &
Sinbad*

*Howard Marshall
School
and Recipients*



*From: API
Happy Kwanzaa*

From The African-American Collection

THE TRADITION CONTINUES...



Kwanzan is both a holiday and a cultural event that celebrates the unique heritage of African Americans. It's a time to reflect and rejoice in the progress made by African Americans throughout history.

The Kwanzaa stamp is the latest in a series of stamps that feature the achievements of African Americans in every area of human endeavor - from the arts and sciences, to business and entertainment.

They include Jackie Robinson, baseball great. Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., first African-American

general. Harriet Tubman, founder of the Underground Railway. And Louis Armstrong, legendary jazzman.*

The Kwanzaa stamp continues this tradition of pride and recognition.

Kwanzaa stamps and a special line of related Kwanzaa stamp products are collectible and make the perfect holiday gift. So spread the joy. Available through the U.S. Postal Service while supplies last, or to order, call:

1-800-STAMP-24.



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POSTAL SERVICE

We deliver.

*Due to popular demand, some stamps are no longer available.

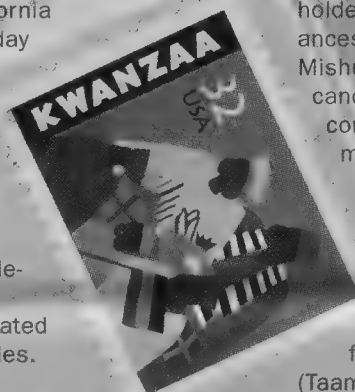
Postal Service Observes 'First Fruits' With Kwanzaa Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service continues its holiday celebration stamp series with the issuance of the Kwanzaa stamp to commemorate the African American festival of family, community and culture.

Created in 1966 by Dr. Karenga, chairman of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Kwanzaa is a seven-day cultural celebration that takes its name from the Swahili phrase meaning "first fruits" and honors the African tradition of celebrating the harvest.

The cultural festival, which begins December 26 and ends January 1, celebrates family, community and culture through practices and affirmations related to the Nguzo Saba, The Seven Principles. The Seven Principles observed during Kwanzaa are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

Kwanzaa has seven basic symbols which represent its spirit and focus: the Mkeka, the straw mat on which all other objects are placed; the Mazao, which symbolizes



the harvest origins of the holiday; the Kinara, a candle holder which holds seven candles representing the ancestral stalk from which African-American come; Mishumaa, the three green, three red and one black candle that represent each principle; Muhindi, ears of corn representing the children in the house and community; Kikombe Cha Umoja, the Unity Cup that is used to pour libation and passed to each member of the family to sip from in a gesture of unity and commitment to Kwanzaa; and Zawadi, culturally-based gifts for children which must include a book and heritage symbol. A Karamu, an African feast is held on December 31. The final day of Kwanzaa is a day of meditation (Taamuli) dedicated to sustained reflection on human life and purpose and the central values of African culture.

The colorful Kwanzaa stamp was designed by noted artist Synthia Saint James. Among her many artistic accomplishments are designs for more than 40 book covers – including the brilliant cover of the best-selling book, "Waiting to Exhale."

Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Celebrates 'Decade of Educational Excellence'

Paul Fireman, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Reebok International Ltd. and Earl S. Richardson, Ph.D., President, Morgan State University, received top honors at the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Tenth Anniversary Awards Dinner celebrating a decade of educational excellence. Entertainment was provided by the extraordinary Morgan State University choir. The gala was attended by several of Reebok's top athletic endorsers and many Morgan State alumni including Earl G. Graves, publisher, Black Enterprise magazine.

Richardson received the "Education Leadership Award" and Fireman received the Corporate Leadership Award. The TMSF Founders' Award was presented to Miller Brewing Company, the National Basketball Association and National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Basketball Bob Lanier accepted the award on behalf of the NBA.

In his welcoming address, Johnny E. Parham, Jr.

Executive Director, TMSF, recognized and paid tribute to the evening's honorees. "These individuals have exhibited extreme dedication to their professional lives and have undoubtedly raised the bar for others to strive to reach their full potential as professionals and business leaders. Each of this evening's honorees is a remarkable leader and serves to challenge each of us to aspire to achieve great things. The personal commitment they continue to display and their individual records of achievement represent the standards by which Thurgood Marshall Scholars are measured."

In a video message, Vice President Al Gore praised the evening's honorees and Thurgood Marshall, recognizing him as a champion of civil rights for African-Americans. TMSF is the only national organization that provides four-year, merit scholarships to historically Black public colleges.

The merit-based scholarships are presented to students from each class who have the highest grade-point averages and have received special recognition for their outstanding academic achievement.

By Audrey J. Bernard



Earl S. Richardson, Ph. D.
President Morgan State University

Class of 1998



Lanniece Freeman
Lincoln University (PA)
Chemistry-GPA 4.11

Class of 1999



Zakiya Holmes
Union Carbide Scholar
Tuskegee University
General Dietetics GPA 4.00

Class of 2000



Aronte Bennett
Philip Morris Scholar
Florida A&M University
Business Administration-GPA 4.00

Class of 2000



Laila L. Price
Fayetteville State University
GPA 4.00

Class of 2000



Latacia J. Nelson
South Carolina State University
Accounting-GPA 4.00

U.S. SUPREME COURT THURGOOD MARSHALL

Thurgood Marshall dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for all Americans. As a lawyer, federal judge, solicitor general and Supreme Court Justice, he tirelessly waged a battle against discrimination and other forms of social injustice for more than half a century.

Upon graduation from Howard University's Law School in 1933, Thurgood Marshall entered into private practice in Baltimore, Maryland. One year later he became counsel for the legal branch of the NAACP and served in various legal capacities before becoming the director-general of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund. It was during this time as director-counsel that he successfully argued the *Brown v. Board of Education* before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954, which led to the desegregation of public schools. Thanks primarily to his efforts, the Court reversed its 1896 "separate but equal" ruling.

Thurgood Marshall was recognized throughout the United States as a champion of civil rights for African-Americans. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Under the Lyndon Johnson administration he became solicitor general of the United States, the first African-American to hold this position. Subsequently, another first took place in the life of Thurgood Marshall - his nomination as the first African-American to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On October 7, 1967, Thurgood Marshall took the judicial oath and became a part of American history. His legacy is a reminder of equal opportunity for all Americans and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund offers minority students the chance to achieve their dreams.

TENTH
ANNIVERSARY



ONE COSMIC NIGHT IN AGES PAST,
THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS CALLED
FORTH THE YOUTH OF THE FUTURE.

"BEHOLD, WE GIVE YOU SEVEN SEEDS."

"WE DO NOT WISH TO FARM,"
SAID THE YOUTH.

THEN THE ELDERS EXPLAINED, "WHEREVER
YOU GO, SOW THESE SEEDS AND YOU WILL
REAP THE BEST FROM LIFE."

"UMOJA - UNITY;

KUJICHAGULIA - SELF-DETERMINATION;

VIJIMA - COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY;

UJAMAA - COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS;

NIA - PURPOSE;

KUUMBA - CREATIVITY;

AND IMANI - FAITH."

THE ELDERS ARE THE TRADITIONS OF
AFRICA. WE AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE
THE YOUTH. AND THE SEVEN SEEDS ARE
THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE VALUES REFLECTED
IN THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE A
PART OF EVERYONE'S LIFE. KWANZAA
YENU IWE NA HERI.

HAPPY KWANZAA FROM CHEVROLET.




Chevrolet

One Hundred Black Men Inc. Honors Muhammad Ali, Ervin "Magic" Johnson & Sinbad

Last month over 1,000 guests attended the Annual Benefit Dinner Dance of One Hundred Black Men, Inc. to honor Muhammad Ali, Ervin "Magic" Johnson and Sinbad for their achievements in sports, entrepreneurship and entertainment.

In his opening remarks, Luther R. Gatling, president of One Hundred Black Men, Inc. paid homage to the honorees. He said, "Each of these men exemplify the ideals of 100 Black Men, Inc., to be an asset to our communities and to help young people achieve their educational and career goals. For these reasons, we salute them at our 18th annual awards ceremony."

Legendary heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali received the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award and NBA superstar and business man Ervin "Magic" Johnson was honored for

his outstanding business acumen. Both of these accomplished men were in attendance. Actor-comedian Sinbad, host of the "VIBE" show, honored for his continuous performances and unique brand of humor, accepted his

award via satellite, live from his Los Angeles soundstage.

"These men have been examples of excellence in their respective fields - Muhammad Ali may be the most well-known man in the world for his amazing feat of being the first heavyweight champion in history to win the title three times; Magic Johnson, a member of the original United States Olympic "Dream Team" who was recently voted one of the NBA's 50 Best Players, played on the Los Angeles Lakers' team for twelve seasons leading them to eight championships and is now a successful business man who is bringing jobs and entertainment back to inner city communities around the country; and actor and comedian Sinbad, recently named host of the television program, "VIBE," continues to amuse audiences around the world in live appearances, on film and in television specials with his unique brand of humor," said Gatling.

Proceeds from the event will benefit numerous programs that are dedicated to enhancing the academic levels of our youth.

(Tune in to Audrey's TV show - "Stepping Out With Audrey J. Bernard," Tuesdays at 7 pm on Manhattan Cable Television - channel 69)



Photo Credit: Allen Morgan



Photo Credit: Allen Morgan

Nguzo Saba

*Through unconditional love
expressed with hugs and constant praise
You'll boost you child's self-worth
In many, many ways
Kind and considerate treatment
Lead to greater self-esteem
Teach him values such as the
Nguzo Saba
For values are everything*

Johnnie Renee Nelson

Raising Our Children in Harmony With The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

Our children are seeds that enable the cultural harvesting of Kwanzaa. They are the framework in which the seven principles (Nguzo Saba) of Kwanzaa are based upon. They remain the key to the cultural survival and development of African-American heritage. Once the solid ideas of reaffirmation and rededication are planted into the Black community, our children will be the fruitful successors, continuing the legacy of their ancestors through Kwanzaa.

Parental involvement is fundamental for setting the foundation of Kwanzaa's longevity. The responsibility of carrying values and principles from generation to generation lies in the hands of African-American adults.

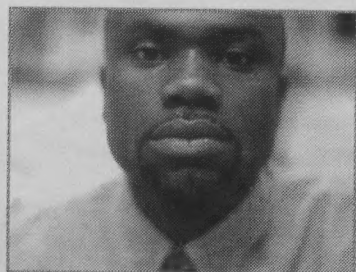
As adults, we must take the initiative to cultivate our children's minds. Giving them books to read such as *My First Kwanzaa* stimulates their intellectual knowledge and makes Kwanzaa an enjoyable learning experience. Through learning what the principles signify, parent and children can incorporate them into their daily lives.

Ujima collective work and responsibility allows parents to focus on the needs to reestablish and redefine our understanding of the extended family. The famous saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," should be applied rather than just recited. An environment of *Ujima* (unity) can be created by embracing and reinforcing the bonds between our elders and youth through shared activities and value orientation.

Children can use their creativity (*Kujichagulia*) to discover and assist in the preparation of Kwanzaa. Reciting principles, helping in food preparation, lighting the mishumaa, and performing dances, as a part of the celebration are activities that encourage self-determination (*Kujichagulia*), which builds a sense of pride, and gives them a chance to participate in cooperative work (*Ujamaa*). With being a part of something that has so much productivity, even at young ages, children can begin to see their purpose (*Nia*) in life.

One of the most important symbols of Kwanzaa is the Mihindi (meaning corn). It represents children and all the hopes and challenges they face as our successors. Kwanzaa gives *Imani* (faith) that our future will be preserved and continue to expand through the cultural principles of Kwanzaa. To African-Americans as adults and universal guardians, it is our responsibility to sow the principles of Nguzo Saba, in order that our children may reap the blessing in the years to come.

By Karen Robinson



Where There's a Will, There's a Way

By Lynne M. Grasz / Sandy Tate

less than two years out of the prestigious Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Will Nelson already has his own nationally known design firm - Wan Design specializing in marketing communication services from strategic problem-solving to program implementation. His clients who range from small businesses to fortune 500 corporations, receive the same level of creative excellence in services provided by WAN Designs

At his youthful age, Will knows the value of payback and acts accordingly. He gives of his time and energy by counseling students and providing formal training on weekends to those aspiring to follow in the design that he has created for his life.

The main ingredient to Will's success is his Jamaican parents, Wilford and Florence Nelson. They have consistently provided a nurturing atmosphere of love, support and guidance to Will and his two younger brothers. WAN Design is a proud legacy for both Will and his family. He's living proof, "Where there's a Will, there's a way!"

Reach Will at his website: www.wandesign.com,
Email: wan@interport.net

A Family Affair

By Sandy Tate

Coreen Simpson has made history in the world of style with her Black Cameo Jewelry line. Her trademark designs are recognizable nationwide as well as abroad. Ms. Simpson's instinctive vision for designs that women feel compelled to include in their collections, has earned her honors from the Smithsonian Institute and an Evvy Fashion Award.

Loving what you do and who you are has afforded Cameo Designs, Ltd. a competitive advantage in pleasing customers; Selecting the perfect partner to complement your business has elevated that advantage. This fait accompli was quite simple - One might even say it was a leverage of lineage - her daughter Suzanne Simpson is vice president of Cameo Designs, Ltd.

Their mutual love, respect, and admiration is something that all mothers & daughters can aspire to. This talented twosome is a troika of beauty, brains and benevolence - I think it must be in their 'designer genes.'

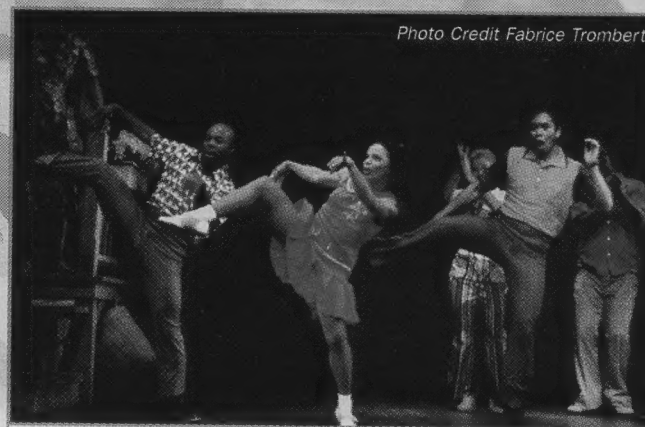


Photo Credit Fabrice Trombert

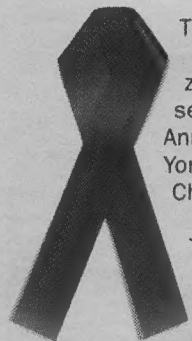
Cast of Street Corner Symphony

Broadway has a new production that is generating excitement at the grass roots level. This magnificent musical essays a piece of the American experience via music of the early Sixties through the Seventies. The audience is embraced by this extremely talented cast and elevated to a pinnacle of excitement that is maintained hours after the production is completed. "Street Corner Symphony" speaks to all ages in a language that is interpreted deep within our very souls. This hand-clapping, foot-stomping, soul-stirring nostalgic treat is not to be missed. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster and the Brooks Atkinson Theatre - Sandy Tate

Credits:

Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.: Michael A. House, President
Sandy Tate. Contributing Editor and Project Coordinator
(View our Website at <http://www.AmalgamatedPub.com>)
WAN Design Inc. Cover/Interior Layout and Design
(View our Website at <http://www.wandesign.com>)

THE NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP COMMISSION ON AIDS



The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (BLCA), the oldest and largest Black AIDS organization of its kind in America, celebrated ten years of service in the war against AIDS. BLCA's Tenth Anniversary Benefit Celebration introduced former New York City mayor David N. Dinkins as BLCA's new Chairman of the Board.

The feeling of love, respect and admiration, which permeated throughout the evening, was directed toward the Benefit's honoree - Harriet R. Michel, President of the National Minority Suppliers Development Council and a member of BLCA's board, Harriet is a true champion of causes that benefit those in need.

Next on the agenda for



(Left-Right) Maurice DuBois - Anchor/Reporter WNBC, Harriet R. Michel President of the National minority Suppliers Development Council & BLCA honoree

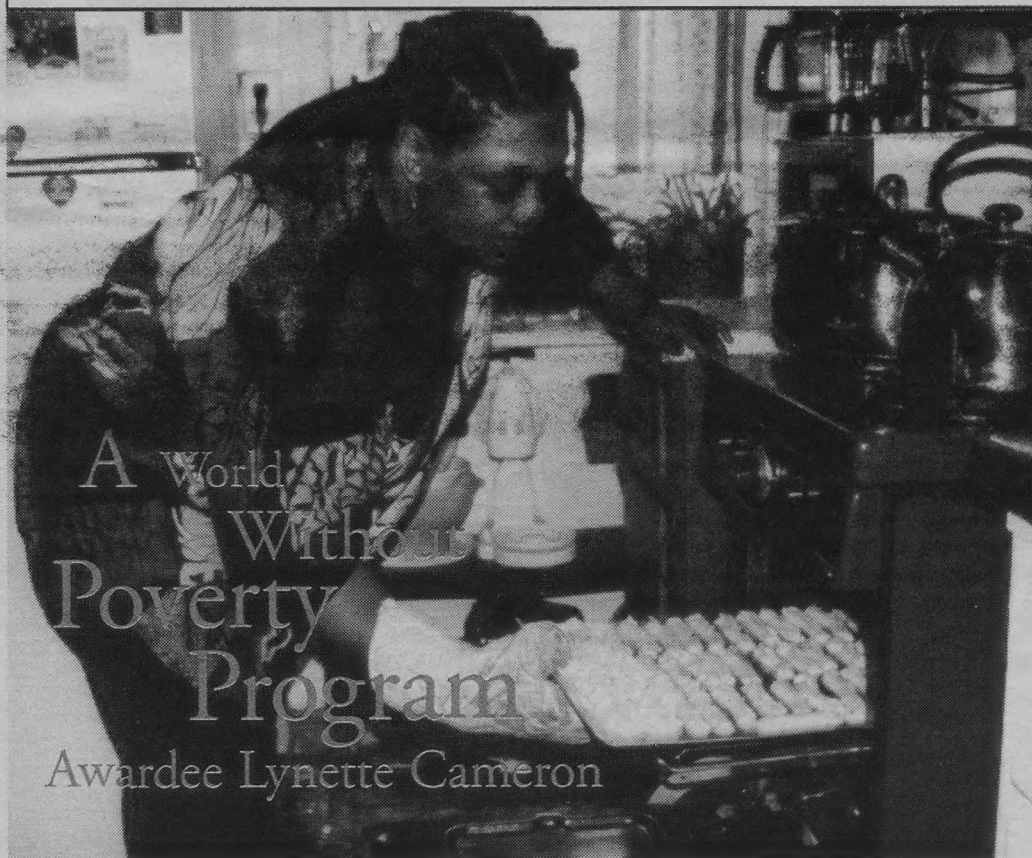
BLCA, was World AIDS day. The organization, with the assistance of Black clergy across New York State, implemented a public health awareness initiative. Parents were armed with information and material allowing them to effectively talk to their children about HIV and AIDS.

Debra Fraser-Howze, President & CEO of BLCA stated, "This initiative was one of the most important endeavors BLCA has undertaken since being founded in 1987. It is imperative that we not forget the effect of HIV/AIDS on our children. It is estimated that by the year 2000, approximately 125,000 children will be orphaned as a result of losing one or both parents to AIDS. We cannot allow this horrific toll to haunt us as we welcome the new millennium."



Photo Credit: Allen Morgan

(Left-Right) Mary King - Supervisor Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins, Debra Fraser - Howze President & CEO of Black Leadership Commission on Aids



A World Without Poverty Program

Awardee Lynette Cameron

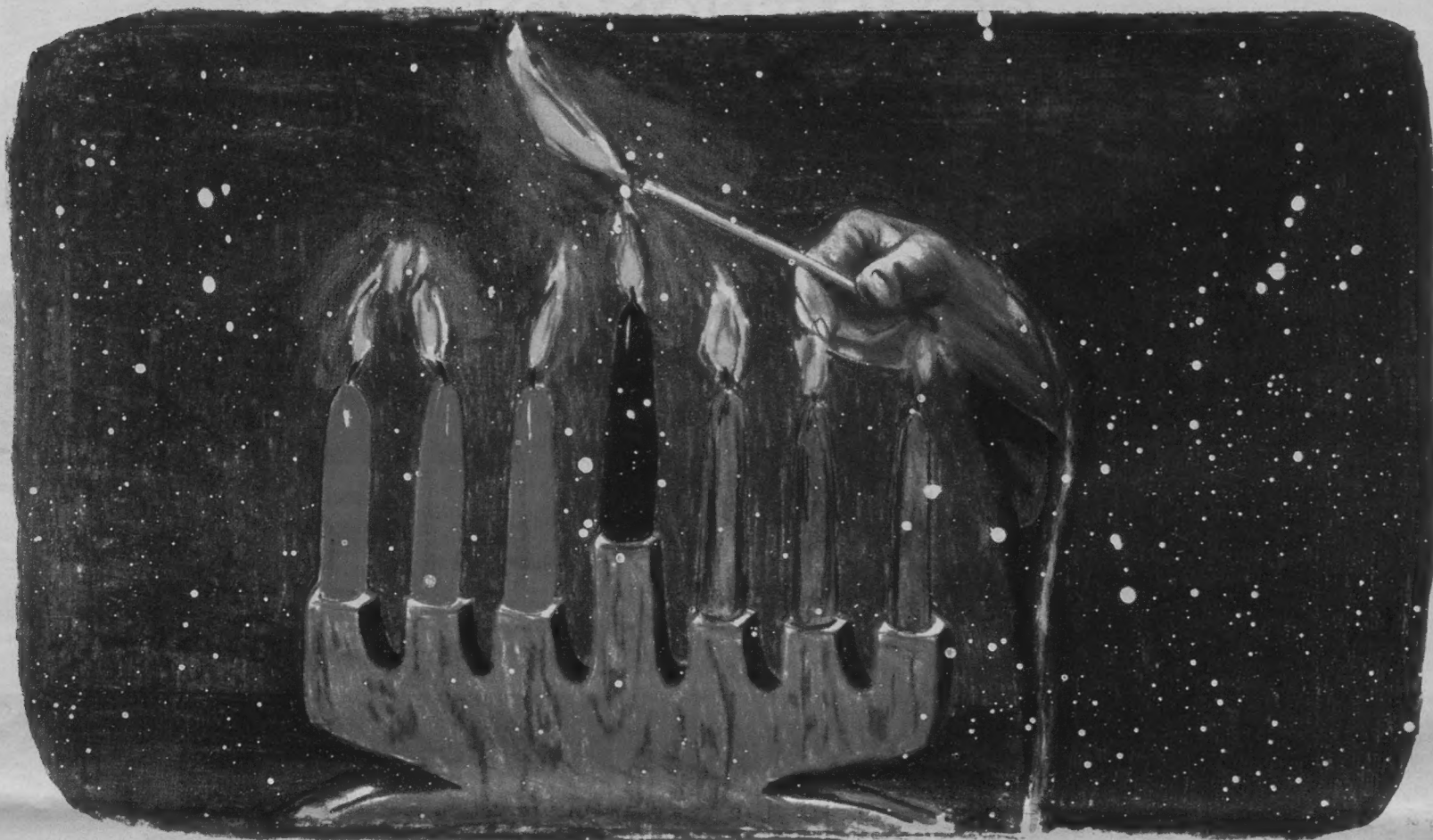
Born in Guyana, Lynette Cameron came to New York when she was 20 years old. While she held various office jobs over the years, it was not until she became involved with the Trickle Up program that she got the boost she needed to parlay her skills, energy and creativity into a business of her own to support herself and her three children.

Trickle Up offered her a grant of \$500 to start a catering business. Armed with the cash and a plan - Ms. Cameron garnered small contributions from other investors. Before long, "Lynn's All-Occasion Caterers" was ready for its first customers.

From her home in Brooklyn, Ms. Cameron has taken on a wide range of services including catering, organizing entertainment and fashion shows and selling traditional African clothing and party supplies. "I'm working hard to manage myself," she says. "Building my own business has given me confidence." She is currently attending college and hopes to open a day care center in the near future.

Lynette Cameron, recently honored by A World Without Poverty program, is passing on her new-found confidence to her children. "It is very important to let them know that they can do anything," she says, "providing they have a plan. If you don't have a plan, you plan to fail."

HAPPY KWANZAA



Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation and its employees know the importance of our partnership with the community. It takes all of us to make our community a better place to live and work.

Improving the quality of life for the disadvantaged—socially or physically—is the number one goal of our corporate contribution program. In keeping with the spirit of Kwanzaa, Brown & Williamson supports organizations that help those who sometimes are unable to help themselves. We're helping

to make a difference through our support of groups like Dare to Care, which provides food for the needy; Clothe-A-Child, an organization that makes sure new clothing is available for school-age children in need; and Metro United Way. Our support of groups like these demonstrates our commitment to the Kwanzaa principles throughout the year.

A strong sense of community is a high priority at Brown & Williamson. It's the reason we will always be responsive to our community's needs.

HARAMBEE!



BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOBACCO CORPORATION

Our Continuing Commitment to Community Service.